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ABSTRACT

This report, prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, provides philosophical and psychological background and teaching guidelines for the kindergarten classroom. The guide is divided into six sections which encompass different aspects of kindergarten education: (1) the philosophy and psychology of kindergarten education, and the roles and needs of the teacher, children, and paraprofessional school aides; (2) educational facilities, equipment, and schedules; (3) the home-school relationship and developmental guidance and testing in kindergarten; (4) numerous learning activities for language arts, mathematics, social science, science, physical education, and fine arts; (5) evaluation criteria, professional films, and a selective bibliography; and (6) kindergarten standards for the State of Pennsylvania and a model of an open classroom approach for use in kindergarten classrooms. (SDW)

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KINDERGARTEN GUIDE

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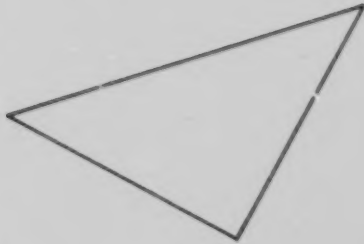
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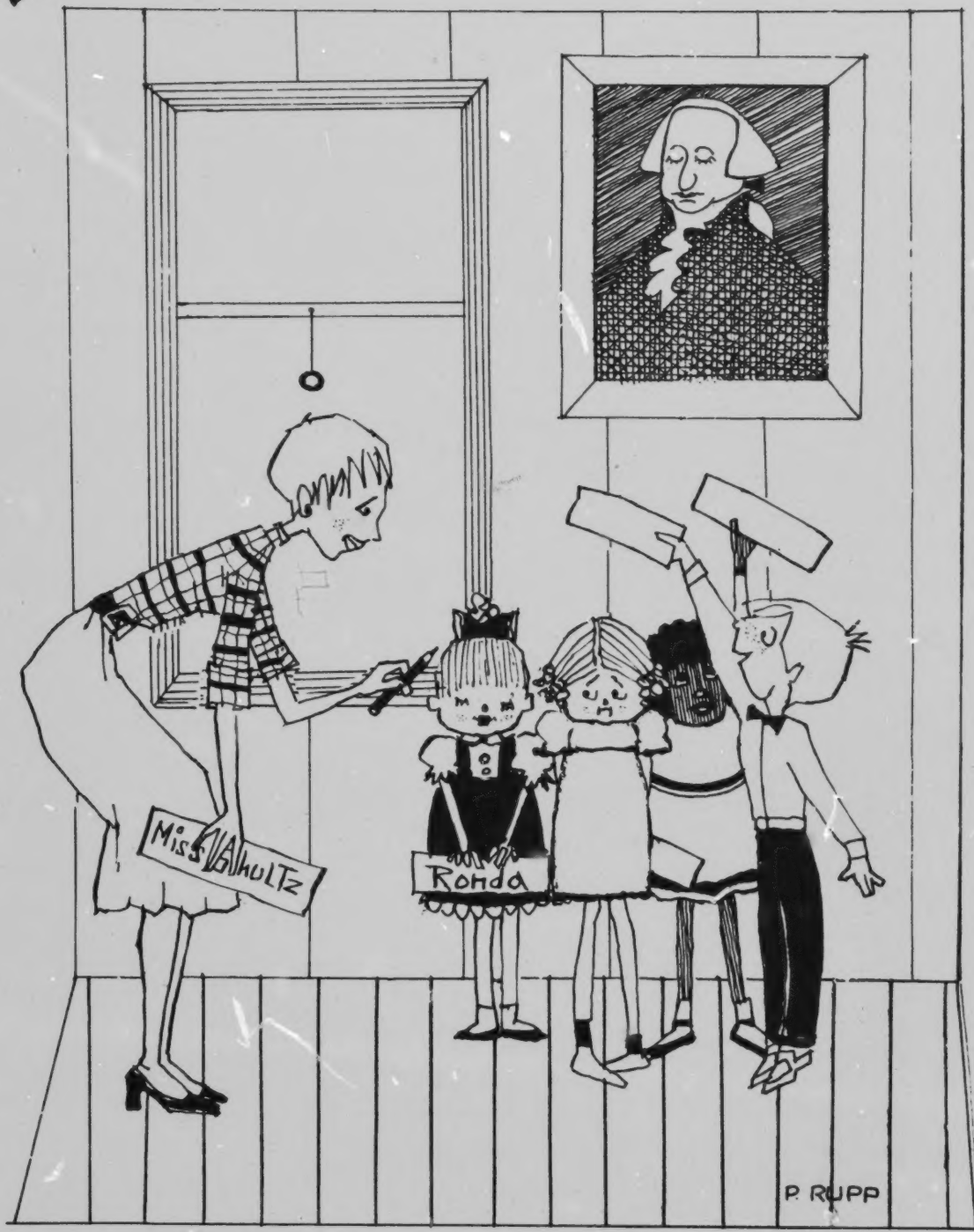


UNDERSTANDING THE JOB

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PREFACE

This kindergarten guidebook is presented by the Department of Education in cooperation with a representative group of Pennsylvania teachers and administrators as a contribution to the improvement of early childhood education throughout the Commonwealth.

It is our belief that every child is entitled to a kindergarten experience and that this phase of education should be an integral part of the total educational program.

Recognizing that all kindergarten children are unique in their rates of growth and development, the presenters of this guide have attempted to provide sufficient activities to satisfy individual differences and have suggested experiences that contribute to each child's total growth.

May this guide help you to improve the education of young children, to appreciate their parents and become more creative and effective teachers.

- Charlotte Garman, editor.

INTRODUCTION

The chief purpose of this guide is not to present a mandatory or finite course of study but to establish a broad base from which every teacher is free to move in the direction of his or her choice.

The guide has three basic purposes:

- . Present a sound philosophy of kindergarten.
- . Encourage a high level of teacher and child performance.
- . Instigate a professional approach to all aspects of school life.

In addition, the guide lists a wealth of ideas, resources, materials, procedures, experiences, and evaluative criteria to assure continuing effort and excellence in the classroom.

The kindergarten year is important. It is a time when children's experiences may well determine the direction of their future education. It is a time when what happens to them can either stimulate or stifle their future eagerness for learning.

With this in mind, we present this guide and hope it will be helpful to you as professional educators and shapers of children's lives.

THE THEORY OR PHILOSOPHY OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

Kindergarten has a unique contribution to the education of children and yet its procedures and practices are basic and applicable to every level of school since they recognize and implement the principles of learning.

- Learning is individual and personal.
- Learning proceeds from the concrete to the abstract.
- Learning occurs only when there is an element of novelty.
- Learning is extended by building on what is already known.
- Learning has taken place only when it changes the behavior of the learner.
- Learning is affected by the total well-being of the learner.

Kindergarten has a unique contribution to the understanding of human growth and development.

- Every human being has unique strengths, needs and characteristics.
- The intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth of an individual is interrelated.
- Each proceeds unevenly and at different rates but in discrete, sequential patterns.
- Behavior patterns are a result of the individual's reaction to both culture and previous experience.
- Children have a personal activity pattern, ranging from the high-strung and very active to the placid and slow-moving.

Early childhood educators consider kindergarten as one of the root years for the child to develop.

- Facility in using a variety of media to communicate, such as movement, symbols (words and numbers), and sound.
- A positive self-concept.
- Rational independence and group membership.
- Cognitive skills, including rational thinking and ability to solve problems.
- Creativity.
- Understanding of the world and how to relate to it.

It is also a time when.

- Accidents are accepted as inevitable.
- Misjudgments are anticipated and considered routine.
- Practice of such habits as completion of a task, making and living by one's decisions, and willingness to try something new introduces the 5-year-old into procedures for more formal learning.
- Sensory training helps the child to become more discriminatory in the use of senses, sight, hearing, smell, and feeling.
- Social contacts with adults and other children are encouraged.
- With individual and group work as a part of the daily program, boys and girls acquire the satisfaction of production through their own efforts but also discover the need for cooperation on other occasions.
- Play, dramatization, talk, painting, modeling, games, block building, singing, storytelling, constructing, walks, and observing are used by the kindergarten teacher to facilitate learning.

The child who experiences a rich variety of activities is psychologically and physically ready to accept the frustrations, fears and difficulties involved in each step of an enlarging horizon and world.

The teacher has an active role guiding the learner to explore, discover, manipulate, observe, express, and experiment. As Bruner says, "*Cognitive ability is a consequence not merely of natural unfolding but also of learning.*" The child's beginning tools of learning have come from a culture, be it rich or limited. The school guides, supplements and extends previous learning and introduces new ways of responding. There is also a place for direct teaching at the point when a child needs a certain skill to move to the satisfactory accomplishment of something that is engaging interest or when the teacher sees the child manifesting a readiness for the next step in learning.

These constitute the objectives of a good kindergarten program and its effectiveness is related, in turn, to the extent to which procedures for attaining these objectives are in harmony with principles of learning and child development.

Five-year-olds are growing in many ways. They are:

- Becoming increasingly aware of people and things around them.
- Seeking to understand their environment by asking innumerable questions.
- Testing perceptions and concepts by endless chatter.

- Eager to be on their own and to try out new-found wings.
- Anxious to prove to the world that they are big and can do things.

Yet at the same time, they may be fearful that they cannot meet the standards adults set for them in their world.

A good environment in the early years is vital to open the doors to learning, to further the stimulation of inquiring minds, to quell fears. The public school kindergarten must be a place where a child can meet the educational requirements of a highly complex society. A good program recognizes that the child must:

- Take on increasing responsibility for own learning and actions.
- Set realistic goals.
- Profit from own mistakes and trial efforts.
- Gain satisfactions from a completed task.

The kindergarten is a place for learning where:

- The teacher sets the stage and creates the environment that nurtures growth.
- Materials and experiences to extend and clarify concepts are provided.
- Opportunities are created to gain language facility and to try out other capabilities.
- The atmosphere is relaxed and informal.

The informal close relationship between teacher and child provides an outstanding opportunity to identify unique needs of individual children that will require special attention of either a therapeutic or enriching nature. It is generally accepted that early identification makes a significant contribution to the elimination of long-term remediation.

A major value of kindergarten education results when parent contacts are used to interpret the school program and to assist the parent to meet the problems of child-rearing with positiveness. Since parents are closely tied to the young child, they are usually eager to share in this first school experience. Frequent appearance of mother and father at the school provides an outstanding opportunity to have them become members of the team, united in giving children every available advantage for optimum development of their potential.

ABOUT THE CHILD

All kinds of children come to kindergarten. When they come, nothing is more obvious than their individual differences. They are all young children, but they are not the same in chronological age, in maturity, in physical characteristics, or in attitudes and aptitudes.

Johnny is not yet 5, but Mary will be 6 in February.

Jane can do handstands, but Billy is just happy to have two feet on the ground.

Sally wears size seven dress, but Jenny is a petite three.

Ruthie is full of fears, but David has no inhibitions.

Jimmy talks all the time; his twin brother says nothing.

They are a roomful of opposites:

Facile, skilled-awkward, stumbling.

Quick, energetic-slow, deliberate.

Rough, rowdy-timid, subdued.

Artistic, original-unimaginative, non-creative.

Intelligent-slow learning.

Chattery, verbal-inhibited, non-communicating.

Constant problem-never a problem.

Too young-too old.

Different as kindergartners seem, they do have some common characteristics:

They want to be thought of as quite *grown-up* yet at times they revert to excessive infantile behavior.

They like *big* words yet they frequently use baby talk.

They are direct and to the point yet they are not always sure of the difference between fantasy and reality.

They laugh and love humor yet they cry with almost equal ease.

They are limited in experience yet they understand more than most people give them credit for.

They are searching constantly—touching, handling, watching, listening, assessing, feeding their ever-growing powers of conceptualization.

In short, kindergartners are:

Active.	Sensitive.
Eager.	Curious.
Noisy.	Investigative.
Excitable.	Questioning.
Challenging.	Tractable.
Sympathetic.	Loving and lovable.

To the teacher these differences emphasize the importance of understanding child development and knowing, in particular, the characteristics of 4-, 5- and 6-year-olds. This knowledge of developmental levels helps the teacher to make a truly careful diagnosis of any kindergartner and gives a basis for meeting the child's individual needs.

In analyzing the level of development of each child, the following descriptions may be helpful. It is well to remember that in early childhood years, girls usually mature more rapidly than boys.

Physically, the kindergarten child:

Is growing more slowly than in earlier years.

Has tremendous drive for physical activity—running, jumping, tumbling, pushing, pulling, lifting, carrying, balancing, and digging.

Is quiet for only short periods of time.

Needs frequent change in activity.

Enjoys games with plenty of movement.

Is full of activity but fatigues easily.

Has good motor control, but generally small muscles are less developed than large ones; often dawdles because of muscular immaturity; may do well in one motor skill and not in another.

Has usually developed hand preference by end of kindergarten.

Is susceptible to communicable diseases and the common colds, but tends to build up immunity during the first year in school.

Intellectually, the kindergarten child:

Is active, eager, interested, curious.

Learns by doing, experiencing, observing, questioning, imitating, examining, exploring, and investigating.

Derives more satisfaction from the process than the product.

Is eager to learn; profits from concrete experiences.

Shows interest in the here and now; has an increasing interest in the far-away.

Has a growing attention and interest span.

Is interested in stories and books; has some difficulty distinguishing between fantasy and reality.

Likes to be read aloud to.

Clarifies understanding of relationships through dramatic play, art, movement and construction.

Demonstrates that language is the most efficient tool; exemplifies that *energy is talking*.

Can tell fairly long stories in sequence.

Begins to draw more realistically; advances from the scribble stage.

Is growing in ability to think, to conceptualize.

Begins to solve personal problems; sometimes needs adult guidance.

Likes to finish a job once begun; shows sense of order in working and putting away toys and materials.

Can carry play from one day to another.

Needs chances for many wholesome sensory experiences.

Emotionally the kindergarten child:

Needs recognition for accomplishments.

Gauges own success or failure in terms of what the adult seems to expect.

Needs a sense of belonging.

Responds to praise, encouragement and consistent direction.

Thrives on trust, fairness and achievable standards.

Finds security in definite routine.

Needs to live in a reasonably predictable world.

Is growing in emotional stability and usually accepts punishment without resentment.

Does not always accept opposition without sulking or crying.

May begin to show rivalry as self-concept develops.

Has a strong emotional link with home.

Often allows the emotional tone of the morning to govern the entire day.

Is prone to show fear of the new and unusual.

Is not always able to distinguish right from wrong by adult standards.

Has a constantly growing sense of humor; laughs at childlike jokes, silly words, unusual or unexpected sounds.

Is serious and businesslike in play activities.

Socially the kindergarten child:

Seeks companionship of other children.

Is anxious to gain group approval.

Plays best in groups of two to seven children.

Is protective toward playmates and siblings.

Is interested in household activities.

Needs adult help in learning to share materials and taking turns.

Is not able to work and play without frequent approval.

Has few adult prejudices.

Is willing and eager to assume responsibility within own level of maturity.

Is improving in assuming responsibility for care of personal belongings.

Chooses and changes friends frequently.

Is self-centered, yet growing in unselfishness.

Is a great talker; needs time to express own ideas.

Is learning to listen purposefully.

Needs achievement according to own ability.

THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

The real test of successful teaching is the growth, happiness and security of the individual child. The number one influence in attaining these attributes is the classroom teacher.

In the kindergarten, the teacher is a vital element. No other person outside the home has quite as much opportunity for influencing the child's development. The teacher is largely responsible for the child's successful transition from home to school; the one who aptly guides the development of character, helping children to temper freedom with responsibility, cultivating the growth of personality, promoting the art of social living and stimulating the use of mental capacities.

The truly successful kindergarten teacher is well-trained professionally and likes to teach young children. The teacher understands child growth and development and has a philosophy built upon research and experience. Is identified as the one who determines the quality of living in the kindergarten and sets the pace for the day's activities. Continually growing professionally, actively participating in school - community projects, studying, reading, and assessing new research and materials in early childhood education, today's kindergarten teacher is held in an esteem never before enjoyed.

Certain attributes have always been associated with the successful kindergarten teacher—patience, sincerity, warmth, inner calm, understanding, flexibility, and certainly, intelligence. To most 4- and 5-year-olds this many-talented individual is simply *my teacher*.

My teacher is a rare personality and can best be described in the following ways. He or she:

- Is a warm, friendly, assuring person—the child's security away from home.
- Knows a great deal about child development and understands the differences in maturity, needs, behaviors, interests, achievements and potentialities.
- Is above prejudice, favoritism and negative criticism.
- Knows how to be parent, teacher, healer, guide, counselor, leader, follower, disciplinarian, friend and confidante (as any doctor, the teacher feels an obligation to hold in confidence the family secrets a child unwittingly tells).
- Is flexible, adapts to the demands and needs of many types of children.
- Is well organized, yet able to operate efficiently in routine kindergarten *disorder*.
- Has endless patience, accepting temperaments and tempers for what they are.
- Has a tremendous sense of humor that carries through unexpected happenings and interruptions that mark a busy kindergarten.

- Is sincere and honest, straightforward, trustworthy and truthful, knowing that no one senses shame more quickly than the young child.
- Has a ready smile and a gentle voice to calm the fearful, assure the timid, bolster the weak and channel the strong.
- Has a sense of timing and a knowledge of when to let children have authority and when to assume control of a situation.
- Is sympathetic but not coddling, understanding but not overly permissive.
- Knows a great deal about many things (or knows where to find the answers), recognizing that children know and want to know much about the most unexpected things.
- Is able to study a classroom of children and decipher their individual and collective needs.
- Has *eyes in every corner of the room*; that is, knows what is going on without obviously displaying an awareness.
- Has a positive outlook toward life, knowing that children are easily influenced by the teacher's attitudes, ideals and values.
- Is physically strong and energetic, ready for life in the kindergarten which, at best, is taxing.
- Has challenging ideas and the initiative to implement them.
- Appreciates creativity and originality in children, recognizing that the 5-year-old needs a continuous outlet for these traits.
- Understands the relationship of all that happens in the kindergarten to the success or failure of the children in years to come.

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SOCIAL LIVING IN THE KINDERGARTEN

When children come to kindergarten they have several needs in common:

- To feel welcome.
- To accept and be accepted by other children.
- To become a cooperative member of the group.
- To develop or extend a wholesome self-image.
- To be secure in this new place.

No child can achieve all this alone. The child must have leadership from the teacher. It is the teacher who gives the child a sense of security. Children know whether they are important, whether their ideas are recognized, whether their mistakes are accepted and corrected with understanding. They know whether they are welcomed or rejected. Perhaps the major responsibility of any teacher is to assure that each kindergarten child develops a very real feeling of *belonging*.

On feeling welcome:

Children come to feel welcome through simple everyday experiences:

- Hearing and expressing informal *good mornings* and other personal greetings.
- Engaging in conversations with the teacher and children.
- Sharing room tasks with the teacher and children (watering plants, caring for pets, mixing paints, washing brushes, scouring the sink, etc.).
- Questioning and finding a teacher who is willing to answer.
- Planning with the teacher for a proposed activity (either personal or group).
- Discussing problems of living together such as: sharing equipment; taking turns; being considerate of others; being reasonably quiet; sharing responsibilities and being courteous.
- Participating in friendly games, discussions, songs and conversation.
- Becoming acquainted with all the school personnel: the principal; the custodian; the nurse; the librarian and the cooks, etc.

- Receiving help, encouragement and constructive criticism in work-play activities.
- Participating in a three-way friendly interchange including parent, teacher and child.
- Enjoying humorous situations with teacher or children.

On being accepted:

For most children to accept and be accepted is a major adjustment. No longer can children in kindergarten always do what they want to do, play with what they want at the time they want to do so. This frequently causes behaviors of aggression, rejection or at best, frustration. To help establish mutual understanding between children the wise teacher:

- Keeps a watchful eye as children work.
- Encourages cooperative activity such as block building, homekeeping or dramatic play.
- Invites two or more children to share an art activity.
- Asks two children to team up for classroom chores.
- Encourages children to discuss plans and to try to reach an agreement.
- Helps children select companions at lunch, rest or play periods.
- Sees that each child gets an occasional turn to do something important.

On being cooperative:

Cooperation is an essential of good citizenship but young children have little concept of this. Kindergarten children find:

- It hard to be friendly to someone they scarcely know.
- They can't appreciate another individual until they develop some common interest

or until the individual demonstrates some special talent.

- They cooperate poorly unless they have a common purpose, working and playing together.
- They learn to cooperate by contributing their own special talents to any enterprise providing the differences in those talents are accepted without comparison.

On building that self-image:

Every child needs a place in the sun. For this reason competition is minimized and the worth of each student maximized. Where comparisons are made, children suffer loss of self-respect and deflection of the spirit.

To be known and to grow as a person, every child needs freedom to:

- Find a place in the group.
- Choose daily activities.
- Tackle problems that are important.
- Learn something new.
- Express own opinions.
- Share personal achievements with others.

On achieving security:

If the school and its program are made for the child, then security should be an evergrowing attribute.

Most children grow where self-responsibility and independence are tempered with reasonable control and where affection, acceptance and encouragement are constant and genuine.

Most children find their security in very simple things, such as:

- Equipment that appeals to them.
- Time to enjoy it.

- Expectations geared to their ability.
- Enough responsibility to give a feeling of work well done.
- Help and suggestions when necessary.
- Much praise for each small achievement.
- Comfort when tired.

AIDES AND PARAPROFESSIONALS

Recognizing the challenge of meeting individual needs, many schools employ a paraprofessional or aide to serve as a *second pair of hands* for the kindergarten teacher. The aide may work with the entire class, with a small group within the class, or with an individual child.

Although the direction of the kindergarten program is the teacher's responsibility, both teacher and aide must work cooperatively and have mutual respect for the role each plays in guiding learning.

Through both new and routine experiences the aide can further the teaching-learning situation in the room by assisting in all phases of the program and by contributing ideas and courses of action to better implement that program.

The paraprofessional can help the teacher in many ways.

1. *In the classroom* by maintaining the physical plant:

- . Make sure room furniture is in place.
- . See that equipment is ready to use.
- . Check centers of interest for neatness and full complement of objects.
- . See that toilet facilities are stocked with sufficient soap, towels, etc.
- . Check for adequate classroom lighting and ventilation.
- . See that easels, sandboxes, water tables, etc. are ready for use.
- . Assist teacher in preparation for next learning experience.

2. *In the preparation* of instructional materials:

- . Check with teacher concerning special materials needed for the day's plans.
- . Replenish supply of art paper, scissors, crayons and paste.
- . See that paints are ready to use.
- . Schedule special equipment needed for audio-visual presentations.
- . Reproduce copies of handout sheets.

3. *In safety on the playground:*

- . Check all equipment for safety.

- . Help children learn proper use and care of equipment.
- . Aid children in sharing, participation and choosing constructive activities.
- . Build good interpersonal relationships with individuals.

4. *In general assistance with the children:*

- . Lead children toward the development of healthful bathroom habits.
- . Assist those who need special help in learning to use crayons, paste, scissors, paints.
- . Be a model of tolerance, patience and understanding for children to emulate.
- . Display children's art work and put names on papers for children who cannot do so.
- . Take children for health services.
- . Be available to children when they: paste, mix paints and use scissors. Help them prepare and serve snacks, clean up and try a new task.

5. *In other activities:*

- . Prepare special activities to use with small groups: finger plays, stories, records, poems, flannel board stories, etc.
- . Assist on walks and field trips.
- . Assist teacher in maintaining health and attendance records, making observations and keeping anecdotal notes on each child.
- . Catalogue and file data.
- . Care for ill or injured children and notify parents.

In all situations the aide should be:

- Alert to the safety of the children.
- Aware of kindergarten as a happy place.
- Instrumental in helping children learn something positive.
- Cognizant to long range objectives and plans for special needs.

- Convinced that kindergarten is a place for success, not failure.
- Able to accept each child's uniqueness as an asset, not a liability.
- Conscious of the fact that the aide serves as the teacher's right hand.
- Supportive of the total kindergarten program.

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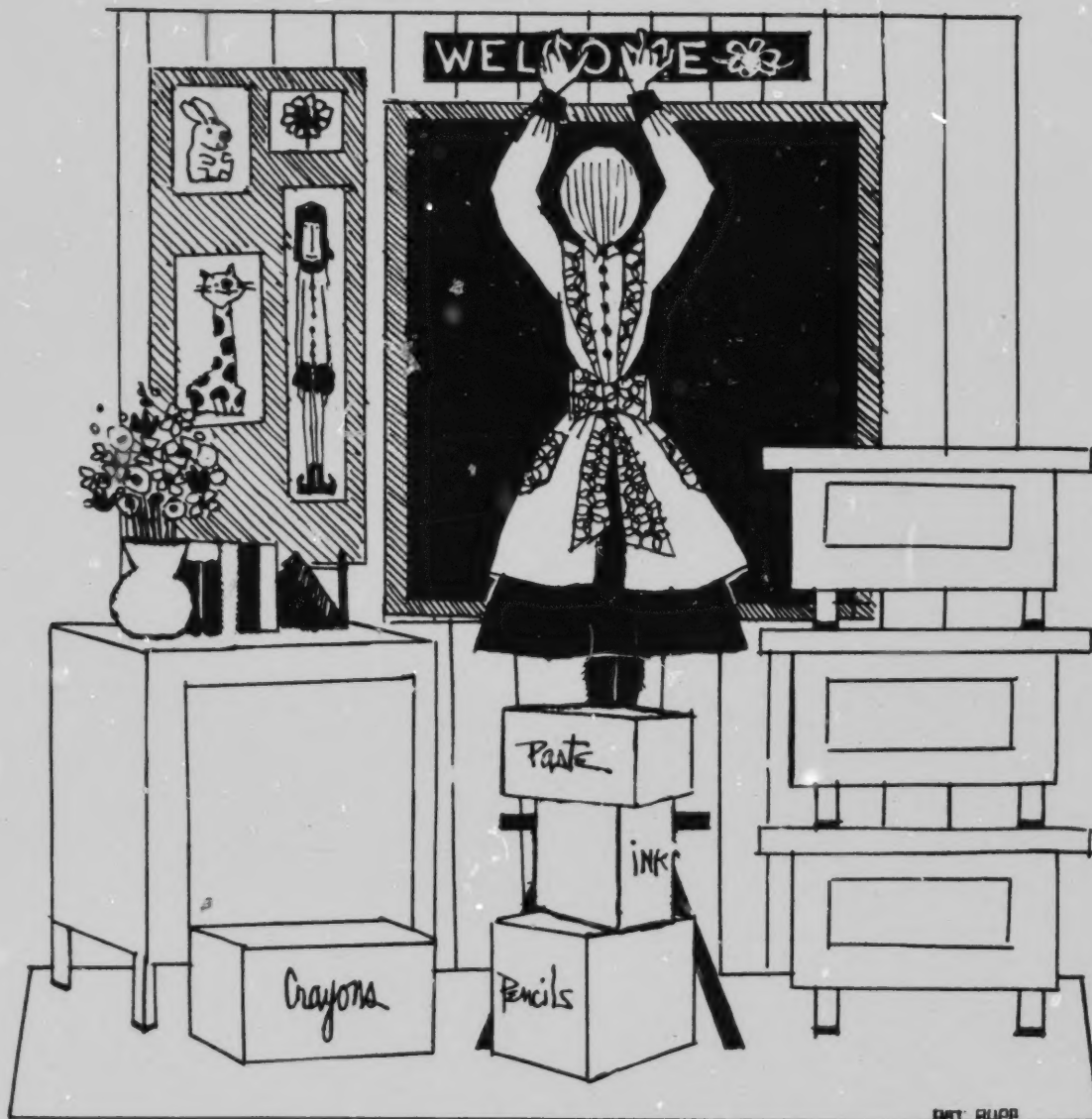


SETTING THE STAGE

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FACILITIES IN THE KINDERGARTEN

Facilities providing for kindergarten education have three distinct but interrelated functions to perform:

1. House children who are learning.
2. Provide an environment for learning.
3. Facilitate learning.

It is thus apparent *facilities are for learning*, not for the convenience of administration, not for *show*, and not as examples of efficiency and economy.

Children are quick to respond to conditions affecting their physical, emotional-social, and mental processes. Facilities are a facet of these conditions to which the child responds physically, psychologically and mentally and the way they are used is acknowledged to be a matter of great importance.

It seems essential, therefore, that housing conditions make children feel physically comfortable and safe, psychologically secure and wanted, and mentally stimulated. At the same time only those curriculum experiences that contribute to the child's physical, psychological, and mental development should be selected. The program requires certain conditions so that the child can benefit. Everything the young child touches, looks at, hears, smells, becomes an important part of the learning process. Hence, everything counts in housing. The following list includes those features that are receiving increasing consideration in the planning of schools for kindergarten children:

- a. Different textures such as rough plaster walls, smooth asphalt tile floors, slick furniture, soft wood panels, cool and shiny tile walls, carpeted floors, clingy, soft felt boards, cloth draperies.
- b. Varied ceiling heights, high for open active areas and lower for intimate conferences and quiet contemplative areas.
- c. Eye-level windows.
- d. Color.
- e. Light.
- f. Beauty.

Since facilities provide a setting for the kindergarten program, a brief review of what goes on when a teacher and a group of 20, 5-year-olds get together can provide a set of criteria. Many kinds of learnings are taking place. There are the affective learnings, values and attitudes; children learning respect for and faith in themselves and others. There are the physical learnings; accepting and adjusting to body changes. There are the cognitive learnings; concepts, language, spatial and quantitative relations, problem solving, symbolic language, knowledge and control of environment.

These learnings require an environment and a program that provides materials, equipment, experiences, and information. With these the child grows in the ability to select, to manipulate, and to organize. Children become increasingly independent, purposeful in their selection and manipulation and willing to reach out to the unknown. The kindergartner engages in such activities as:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| observing | digging |
| experimenting | cutting and pasting |
| imagining | painting |
| conceptualizing | modeling with clay |
| rolling | sawing and hammering |
| lifting | dancing |
| pulling | talking and listening |
| testing | building with blocks |
| balancing | enjoying picture books |
| falling | dramatizing |

Through these activities the young child is strengthening big muscles, developing fine muscles, learning eye-hand coordination. Facilities must provide for all since many will be taking place simultaneously. It is not a matter of providing for one type of activity the first semester and transforming the space for another kind of activity later in the year. Children are at different stages of development, needing and using the environment in different ways. This requires space and wise use of all areas.

The amount of space required for kindergarten is often set up as 35 - 50 square feet per child of indoor space, and 60 - 75 square feet per child of outdoor space. Sometimes it is given in terms of square footage per group of 20 children, divided according to the activity areas required by the program. For example, Educational Facilities suggests that indoor facilities for a group of not more than 20 children should provide 200 square feet of space for group activities, 250 square feet for active play, and 150 square feet for quiet activities. Jimmy Hymes, well-known authority in Early Childhood Education, has said he is more concerned about outside space than inside space.

Space must be able to absorb the noise and activity of 5-year-olds. In any kindergarten there are a number of activities going on at one time. It is generally agreed this can be most effectively handled when the area is organized to provide a quiet, secluded, contemplative spot, an open central area, and a wet corner for messy activities. These areas can be so organized that traffic problems are reduced, equipment and materials required for the activities are easily accessible in that area, and noise is contained in the section and controlled as much as possible.

The contemplative spot should be carpeted, have shelves and a table for picture books, chairs, and listening devices. The open central area lends itself to total group activities such as music, rhythms, snacks and rest, small group activities that require much space such as block building, housekeeping, and dramatics. The wet area provides for painting, clay modeling, water play, and wood work. These areas should be arranged to:

1. Allow for full-time supervision.
2. Encourage pupil interaction.
3. Eliminate accidents and interruptions as much as possible.
4. Reduce noise distraction in the quiet area.

One group of architects suggests three levels connected by ramps that would be equal to 2 or 3 steps, the wet area located near the entrance way and the quiet, secluded nook on the top level.

Additional space must also be allotted for food preparation, the teacher's office, toilets, sink and work areas, storage of materials and equipment, individual cubicles and garment storage for children, bulletin and chalk boards. The outdoors should blend with the indoors for both are considered classrooms. Storage space that children can reach and use is necessary both outdoors and indoors. To make materials accessible and encourage organization in the classroom, there can be large shallow drawers for paper, wheeled carts for blocks, and movable shelving to double as partitions. Shelves of varying sizes take care of materials requiring different kinds of space, such as shallow shelves for paper, puzzles, crayons, etc.; deeper shelves for toys, models, paint, etc. Locked and rainproof storage cabinets are a must for the outside.

Most people recognize the general requirements of classroom space for a kindergarten are: good ventilation, lighting, safety, beauty and utility. However, there are a few additional qualities to be mentioned:

1. Furniture must be scaled to children (think of their eye level, arm reach, and height).
2. Room must be expandable, convertible and versatile (meaning movable walls, shelving and storage).
3. Location must be easily accessible and safe in a noncongested area of the building.
4. Area must be arranged so that children can move freely between indoor and outdoor learning areas.

The furniture and equipment should be sturdy, with no sharp edges, sanded smooth, non-splintering and be the type that can expand, shrink, or disappear (i.e. lightweight, portable stack furniture that can be combined in many ways or pushed aside to provide open areas).

The floor must be warm, clean, smooth but not highly polished and slippery and free from drafts.

Architects, generally, are interested in designing facilities that provide an environment for young children and that meet the needs of a program designed for early education. They are imaginative and open to suggestions. It is the responsibility of the school personnel, therefore, to interpret to them what is considered essential.

The committee has the responsibility for planning a program for young children. It should include not just the architect, representatives of the school board, and the superintendent, but also an elementary school principal, a supervisor and a teacher, all grounded in child development and knowledge of early education. The ideal classroom is *not* an area with given dimensions; it is an environment that allows for effective teaching and learning.

Most textbooks on kindergarten education give comprehensive lists of furniture, equipment and materials. The following suggests the essentials for carrying on a program outlined in this bulletin.

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT FOR KINDERGARTEN

Basic Equipment:

1. Tables for children - one table for every four or six children. (One table should be lower than the rest to accommodate very small children.)
2. One chair (scaled to size) for each child.
3. Refrigerator (unless room has access to a cafeteria).
4. Teacher's desk and chair.
5. Piano (on a dolly, if possible) and stool or chair.
6. Record player, records, projector, rhythm instruments.
7. Workbench and tools (hammer, saw, pliers, screwdriver, nails, soft wood).
8. Metal cans for used milk cartons (unless glass containers are used).
9. Two wastebaskets (large).
10. Flag.
11. Easel (two or more).
12. Large blocks (wood or heavy cardboard).
13. Doll corner equipment - stove, sink, cupboard, table, four chairs.
14. Cabinets or shelves for toys and other equipment.
15. One large table for painting or display use.
16. Corkboard display space.
17. Bookcase or book display rack.
18. Equipment for resting.
19. Broom, bucket, dust pan, sponges, cleanser, soap, extra paper toweling.
20. Sandbox, if desired.
21. Hot plate.
22. Paper cutter.

Large Toys:

1. Rocking boat.
2. Seesaw (indoor).
3. Wagon.
4. Tricycle.
5. Climbing gym.

Suggested Small Toys:

1. Unbreakable dolls.
2. Doll carriage and covers.
3. Ironing board.
4. Toy telephones (2).
5. Cooking utensils.
6. Table service.
7. Cleaning equipment - broom, mop, dust pan.
8. Wood trucks, buses, airplanes, fire engines, boats, trains, etc.
9. Tinkertoys.
10. Lincoln logs.
11. Constructo toys.
12. Puzzles.
13. Balls of various sizes - 5", 8", 10".

14. Jump rope.
15. Rubber or plastic animals.
16. Garden tools.
17. Toys with mechanized parts - screws, bolts, nuts.
18. Pegboards.

Teacher's Materials:

1. One pair 10" shears.
2. Stapler and staples.
3. Paper punch.
4. Masking tape.
5. Scotch tape.
6. Straight pins, safety pins.
7. Yardstick.
8. Foot rule.
9. Two boxes cleansing tissue per month.
10. Magic markers.
11. Paper clips.
12. Paper fasteners.
13. Pencils.
14. Rubber erasers.
15. Chalk and eraser for blackboard (if the kindergarten has one).
16. Desk wastebasket.

Equipment for other interest areas is listed under the proper heading (Art, Music, Science, etc.).

THE KINDERGARTEN DAY

TAKING A NEW LOOK

In years past kindergarten was often considered a thing apart from the regular elementary school. It was looked upon as a kind of preamble to greater things.

Today, most people recognize that kindergarten IS school and they appreciate the fact that even at the age of 5, great things are already happening. Not only a laboratory for social development with lessons in cooperation, tolerance, self-control and citizenship, the kindergarten is a workshop in which the basis for all future academic growth is laid.

It is the kindergarten that continually recognizes the growing powers of a child's mind. It is the kindergarten that attempts to:

- Channel a child's physical vigor and adventuresome spirit into intellectual experimentation and experience.
- Foster a child's independent thinking and original investigation.
- Encourage a child's communication of ideas and feelings.
- Steer a child's intensity of feelings into creative expression.

At no other time in life do children use their senses quite so thoroughly. At no other time do they learn quite so easily through the avenues of:

- Experience
- Examination
- Experimentation
- Expression

In the kindergarten the firsthand activities every child enjoys as he or she works alone or with others help to determine the quality of the educational experience and usually set the tone for his or her future interest in learning.

PROVIDING THE SETTING

Children's abilities and interests are extremely varied. Because of this, the kindergarten setting must be equally diversified and must offer something from all the areas that might appeal to a child. Investigation and probing of either ideas or things cannot take place in a void and experimentation and examination occur only when there are places and things to explore. With this in mind, the good kindergarten provides a setting as varied as the children who engage in it.

Physical apparatus and big blocks for large muscle development.

Manipulative games, puzzles, objects and materials to strengthen small muscle coordination.

Books of all kinds to explore new ideas.

Mathematical devices for those who are interested.

Science equipment to encourage experimentation.

Music equipment to lift the spirit.

Audiovisuals of all kinds to enrich personal and group activities.

Language arts materials to intrigue the mind.

Art materials to stimulate esthetics.

Industrial tools and devices for the mechanically-inclined.

From the time the children arrive in the classroom they should find themselves surrounded by the kinds of things that:

- stimulates their intellect.
- encourages construction.
- arouses their curiosity.
- inspires creative expression.
- improves their thinking and problem-solving ability.
- demands communication of ideas.
- leads to dramatic play.
- calls for sharing and cooperation.
- provides for physical activity.
- broadens human relationships.
- requires manipulation.
- develops standards and values.

To foster these goals the kindergarten teacher must plan centers of interest that help create a pleasant, homelike atmosphere and, at the same time, present an invitation to learning. They must, in addition, be so designed that they contribute to the development of specific desired behaviors.

Centers of Interest

Behavioral Goals

Library Center

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| - Books of all kinds | - Develops interest in books. |
| - Picture files | - Uses graphic materials. |
| - Storybook figures | - Roleplays favorite story-book characters. |
| - Puppets | - Improves in language facility. |
| - Stereoptician or story-viewer | - Respects rights of others to share books and equipment. |
| - Listening posts | - Is reasonable quiet while <i>reading</i> but exchanges reactions with friends. |
| - Story tapes | - Handles books and materials properly. |
| | - Asks for additional books, magazines. |

Homemaker's Center

(Playhouse or kitchen and living room area)

- . dolls and doll clothes
- . doll bed and bedding
- . cuddly toys
- . dishes, cooking utensils
- . silverware
- . telephones
- . rocking chair
- . soap, laundry materials, tub
- . ironing board, iron
- . doll carriage
- . refrigerator
- . stove
- . cupboard
- . table and chairs
- . washline, clothes pins
- . dress-up clothes, both male and female
- Uses correct names of common kitchen equipment.
- Shares willingly.
- Takes turns cleaning.
- Puts dollhouse to order.
- Plays well with others.
- Dramatizes familiar home roles.
- Learns give and take.
- Exhibits sense of family values.
- Uses correct utensils when eating.

Music Center

- . Record player (a manual one is best)
- . Piano
- . Rhythm sticks for each child
- Participates in some form of music.
- Listens to many forms of music.
- Interprets rhythms at times.
- Rhythm band instruments
 - . drums
 - . tambourines
 - . jingle bells
 - . clogs
 - . sandblocks
 - . tone blocks
 - . cymbals
 - . triangles
 - . baton
 - Keeps reasonable time when using rhythm instruments.
 - Releases emotions through music.
 - Helps to sing.
 - Claps or keeps time if child does not sing.
 - Relaxes to music.
 - Handles instruments with care.
 - Puts instruments away when finished with them.
- Pitch pipe
- Tuning fork
- Hears difference in pitch, intensity.
- Materials to make *home made* instruments
 - . rubber bands
 - . bottles
 - . cigar boxes
 - . aluminum piepans
 - . wood blocks
 - . metal lids of several sizes
 - . metal buttons
 - . round cereal boxes
 - . small nail kegs
 - . innertube pieces
 - . water glasses
 - . sandpaper
 - Experiments with materials for making instruments.
 - Improvises with instruments or with body.

Art Center

- . Easels
 - . Crayons, wax and hard
 - . Paste, glue
 - . Scissors
 - . Paints (tempera, finger, water colors)
 - . Paper (for drawing, painting, fingerpainting)
 - . Collage
 - . String
 - . Felt
 - . Cloth odds and ends
 - . Paper bags, plates, cups
 - . Paper scraps
 - . Pipe cleaners
 - . Spray paints
 - . Containers for storing brushes and paints
 - . Clay or plasticine
 - . Enamel paints
 - . Pieces of sponge
 - . Screening
 - . Wallpaper samples
 - . Oilcloth samples
 - . Burlap
 - . Rolls of mural paper
 - . Wire
 - . Thin clothes hangers
- Expresses ideas in own way.
 - Is self-reliant in use of materials.
 - Participates in varying sizes of groups.
 - Evaluates own work and the work of others.
 - Wants own creative efforts recognized.
 - Compliments the efforts of others.
 - Completes projects already begun.
 - Discusses work with others.
 - Varies use of media.
 - Knows color names.
 - Combines several media into one product.
 - Shares objects of *beauty*.
 - Looks at illustrations in books.
 - Rearranges work or play areas.
 - Decorates objects or surrounding room areas.
 - Shows correct care and use of tools.
 - Assumes responsibility for cleaning up.

Block Center

- . Large wood blocks
 - . Cardboard blocks
 - . Boards (8" x 4")
 - . Assorted smaller wooden blocks
 - . Miniature blocks
- Shows a sense of proportion and design.
 - Begins to understand principle of balance.
 - Uses imagination and roleplay.

Science Center

- . Aquarium
 - . Terrarium
 - . Magnets
 - . Prisms
 - . Specimens
 - . Exhibits
 - . Animal cages and pets
 - . Weights
 - . Measuring spoons, cups
 - . Watering can
- Examines realia (stones, leaves, fossils, etc.).
 - Experiments with apparatus, materials.
 - Finds answers for himself.
 - Inquires about specific experiences.
 - Brings in and shares materials, ideas.
 - Contributes to class discussions.
 - Cares for and feeds wild or domestic animals.
 - Participates in group projects and experiments.
 - Is curious about natural forces and the plastic forces.
 - Classifies objects and events.

Social Studies Center

- . Globe
 - . Maps
 - . Pictures
 - . Posters
 - . Dolls from other lands
 - . Puppets
 - . Magazines
 - . Newspapers
- Use social study objects in free activity period.
 - Asks questions about posters, maps, pictures, news items.
 - Brings in additional posters, pictures, news items.
 - Tells about personal experiences connected with topic.
 - Begins to understand people of other times and places.

Audio-Visual Center

- . Projector
 - . Overhead projector
 - . 8mm. projector and cartridges
 - . Small screen
 - . Viewmaster and reels
 - . Stereoptican
- Uses less complicated audio-visual materials.
 - Shares materials.
 - Shares interest in films, filmstrips, etc.
 - Takes care of equipment.
 - Discusses or asks questions.

Wealth of equipment, although certainly a contributing factor in stimulating interest, is not a guarantee of continued growth and eagerness for learning. Other aspects of perhaps more importance have to do with what actually happens in the kindergarten:

- Is there easy access to everything in the centers of interest or is the equipment so out-of-reach that no one notices it?
- Is there freedom to use the equipment or do rigid rules and restrictions tend to disenchant children?
- Is there TIME to explore the room or is every moment of the day structured for the class?
- Is there opportunity to express ideas that develop from use of the materials and equipment?
- Is there place to exhibit all the added bits and pieces that children bring if encouraged?
- Is there a follow-through of *teachable moments* that spring from the children's explorations?

ACHIEVING A GOOD DAY

A good day for kindergartners is much like a good day for adults. It includes planning and evaluating activities so that each child has:

something important to do.
time to do it.
a certain amount of success.

acceptance by the group.
opportunity for self-expression.
time for fun.
time for rest.
opportunity for growth.

Children need something important to do. This means something important to the child. A kindergartner likes responsibility and is capable of many small leader roles such as:

- being table chairperson.
- delivering a message to the principal or the secretary.
- going for and returning with fliers or notices from the office.
- leading the rhythm band.
- asking for the custodian's help.
- walking first in line.
- being *it* in a game.
- supervising or participating in *clean-up* activities such as: washing tables; scouring sinks; picking up paper and wiping up paint.
- assuming housekeeping duties for the playhouse and other toy areas.
- going to the cafeteria for napkins, cookies, straws or any other necessary item.
- carrying a book request to the librarian and bringing back the book.
- filling crayon boxes that need replenishing.
- taking messages home.
- making announcements.
- telling very special news.
- answering the door.
- being host or hostess when guests or parents arrive.
- giving simple directions, explanation.
- acting as *teacher* when teacher is called from the room.
- telling a story.
- directing a game.
- distributing paper, scissors, etc.
- serving milk and cookies.

Children need time to do what is important to them. Although many kindergartners seem to operate in high gear, they change direction often and sometimes stall completely. Most of them move at their own rate and not always at the pace that adults expect. Pressuring children to *hurry up* rarely helps; if anything, it hinders. Many 5-year-olds are not even aware of their lack of speed. They believe they are moving with alacrity. This is an important reason why kindergarten programs are, or should be, built around large, flexible blocks of time.

ESTABLISHING A SCHEDULE

To designate exact allotments of time for every kindergarten to follow is neither wise nor possible. For this reason several types of daily schedules are proposed that may be adapted easily to individual tastes and needs. Each one is semi-structured and is subject to change at the discretion of the teacher. Each one outlines general blocks of time yet provides for alternating quiet and active periods and a balance of indoor-outdoor experiences.

SCHEDULE I

8:45 - 9:30	Free Activity Period	12:45 - 1:30
9:30 - 10:00	News, Discussion, Poetry, Fingerplays, Conversation, Concept Development	1:30 - 2:00
10:00 - 10:15	Singing, Marching, Rhythms, Calisthenics	2:00 - 2:15
10:15 - 10:30	Toilet, Snack	2:15 - 2:30
10:30 - 10:50	Outdoor Play	2:30 - 2:50
10:50 - 11:30	Quiet Activities Rest, Music Appreciation, Record Stories, Filmstrip, Table Activities, Story	2:50 - 3:30

SCHEDULE II

9:00 - 9:15	Free Play	1:00 - 1:15
9:15 - 9:35	Opening Conversation, Singing, Sharing, Planning	1:15 - 1:35
9:35 - 10:00	Work Period Free choice, Construction Arts, Crafts	1:35 - 2:00
10:00 - 10:20	Outdoor Play	2:00 - 2:20
10:20 - 10:40	Lavatory and Lunch	2:20 - 2:40
10:40 - 11:00	Rest or Quiet Activity	2:40 - 3:00
11:00 - 11:30	Group Activities Music, Stories, Natural and Social Sciences, Dances, Rhythms	3:00 - 3:30

SCHEDULE III

9:00 - 9:30	Opening Conversation, Singing, Sharing, Planning	1:00 - 1:30
9:30 - 10:30	Work Period Free Choice, Arts, Crafts, Construction, Concept Development, Individual and Small Group Activity	1:30 - 2:30
10:30 - 11:00	Health Period Indoor-Outdoor Play, Bathroom, Lunch, Rest	2:30 - 3:00
11:00 - 11:30	Group Experiences Music, Stories, Natural and Social Sciences, Films	3:00 - 3:30
11:30 - 11:50	Free Play	3:30 - 3:50
11:50 - 12:00	Evaluation, Plans for Next Day, Dismissal	3:50 - 4:00

SCHEDULE IV

(Time allotments are based on a 150 minute session)

Unstructured Activities - 20 per cent (30 minutes)

Group Meetings - 15 per cent (22 minutes)

Work Time - 20 per cent (30 minutes)

Bathroom Needs - 9 per cent (13 minutes)

Snack Time, Rest - 10 per cent (20 minutes)

Music, Rhythms - 10 per cent (15 minutes)

Language Arts - 13 per cent (20 minutes)

Different as the framework may be, the programs have identical goals:

- To help the children learn about the world in which they are growing.
- To assist them in understanding its standards and rules.
- To guide children toward productive living in that world.

MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE ROOM MANAGEMENT AND DISCIPLINE

Discipline and room management go hand in hand. Where there is successful room management, there is usually sound discipline and where there is satisfactory discipline, there is usually sensible room management. The immediate purpose of both is the optimal, happy adjustment of children to the demands of their environment. This becomes of utmost importance when one considers that what transpires in a room is dependent upon:

1. The behavior that is expected of the child.
2. The child's individual ability to achieve that behavior.
3. The teacher's reaction to the child's efforts.

Most children want to please. They make an honest effort to cooperate. When they fail, they may not always be at fault. Sometimes failure to succeed on their part can be related directly to certain teacher behaviors that make compliance difficult.

For example:

Too authoritarian control tends to frighten children and much of what seems negative behavior may be the result of fear.

Inability to meet tense and rigid standards makes children feel frustrated, guilty and sometimes humiliated which, in turn, makes them uncooperative and difficult.

Extreme permissiveness fosters insecurity in children by giving them no standards at all and, consequently, nothing to strive for. Such freedom without limits breeds chaos!

Too much time is spent in punishing behaviors rather than in developing the art of self-discipline.

More energy is expended in simply reacting to a behavior than in seeking its cause.

Within the classroom every child has a right to feel secure. Good room management promotes this. It is achieved largely by establishing and maintaining a fairly consistent daily routine in which:

Simple rules are set for daily activities regarding:

1. Entrance of children to the room.
2. Removal of outer clothing.
3. Relaxation and quiet periods.
4. Dismissal times.
5. Behaviors coming to and going from school.
6. Toilet procedures and care of personal needs.
7. Caring for individual and group possessions.
8. Maintaining an orderly and attractive room.

9. Self-controls expected in free activity periods.
10. Playground conduct.

Daily procedures are changed only when children can cope with change.

Children are reminded kindly but firmly that definite patterns of behavior are expected in the conduct of each activity.

Routines and controls are discussed and partially formulated by the group.

Children are helped to understand that limits or controls are ways of achieving satisfaction rather than barriers to activity.

As always, the kindergarten teacher is the key figure in the development of security. He or she:

1. Establishes the daily routine.
2. Keeps the activities reasonably short, especially in the beginning of the year.
3. Is consistent and fair in the enforcement of limits.
4. Maintains a quiet, pleasant, reassuring voice and manner.
5. Builds upon each small success the child demonstrates.
6. Looks for positive attributes in every child.
7. Knows that changes in young children's behavior come quite gradually and even tend to regress if behavioral expectations are beyond their ability to comply.
8. Understands the developmental characteristics and levels of the children and adjusts all expectations accordingly.
9. Understands that children have the same, normal variations in moods and reactions as adults and tempers any judgments accordingly. (In short, the teacher accepts that children cannot always *be good*.)
10. Calmly varies routines when necessary to meet the moods and manners of the children.
11. Earnestly investigates the background of children whose attitudes, behaviors and emotions are expressed in unusual aggressions, withdrawals, or abnormal actions.
12. Seeks the help of all school personnel (guidance counsellor, nurse, home-school visitor, principal, psychologist, etc.) who serve as a team to resolve such problems.

13. Maintains an easy, comfortable relationship with all parents making them feel as welcome and secure in the classroom as the children he or she guides. (This, in turn, helps to make their children secure.)

When the daily program is well-designed and room management and discipline are consistent with the needs of the class, they help each child to develop the following concepts:

School is a happy place and the child is an important part of that place.

The teacher and the children are friends and want to work and play together.

It is exciting to learn new things of many kinds.

Work is an important part of life even at the age of 5.

Doing things is fun if each individual is fair and reasonably considerate.

There is much freedom of choice both in work and play.

There are also rules to be obeyed.

Freedom to do usually continues as long as rules are obeyed.

It is important to do one's best, to use one's abilities and time wisely.

Everyone needs occasional rest from work.

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WORKING TOGETHER

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THE HOME-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP

Today, as never before, emphasis is being placed upon the importance of reciprocal home-school relationships. Although the education of all children begins in the home, there is an increasing awareness that the home can no longer afford the child the diversified experiences imperative for coping with the complexity of current society. The necessity for providing suitable guided learning activities has become a joint effort of parent and teacher. This coalition is vital for the optimal development of the child.

Where father and mother have begun the establishment of those attitudes and skills necessary for success in life, the kindergarten simply continues the process and helps the children do better the things they must do anyway. Where the home and family have been remiss, whatever the reason, the kindergarten must begin the foundation of a better way of living and doing. To do this effectively there must be a partnership of parent and teacher, a partnership that develops common understandings, lessens tensions and gives unified support to the child as the start of the school experience.

Home-school contacts are of many kinds, but essential to mutual understanding and confidence is the contact which the school makes BEFORE the child arrives. Such initial contact has the following purposes:

To help children feel secure and happy in making the adjustment to a school situation that is new and strange.

To introduce children to future classmates and to school personnel.

To help children become acquainted with the physical setup of the school.

To initiate a wholesome attitude toward school in general.

This may be achieved in several ways:

1. Prepare a *kindergarten letter or handbook* and send it to parents of prospective children.

This material often informs parents of the goals and objectives of the kindergarten and outlines desired parental responsibilities. When parents follow the suggestions, they help their children to make an easier adjustment to school life. The handbook usually advises parents to:

- Talk with and read to the child.
- Build a happy attitude toward school.
- Teach the child safety rules (how to cross the street; which is the safest way home).

- Encourage the child to dress and remove wraps; see that rubbers, boots, outer clothing are large enough to make this easy for the child.
 - Label the child's clothing and possessions.
 - Let the child make some decisions at home.
 - Include the child in family group activities.
 - Give the child a few responsibilities that are commensurate with abilities and maturation.
 - Help to cope with temper tantrums and to show a certain amount of reasonableness toward others.
 - Encourage the child to pick up toys, books, clothing.
 - See that the child has nourishing meals at regular times, enough sleep and relaxation.
 - Let your children play with other children their own age; if they have no playmates, find some.
 - Help the child to understand that the teacher is a friend as well as other adults at school.
 - Discuss with the teacher any physical, emotional, social or mental condition which may hinder the child's progress in school.
 - If possible, teach your children their full name, their father's name, address or telephone number.
 - Discourage infantile speech (baby talk).
 - Give the child as many experiences as possible such as picnics, small or big trips, visits to the zoo, farm, the city, etc.
 - Give the child a sense of security, a feeling of *belonging*.
2. Hold spring visits before the fall admission period. Invite small groups of children with their parents to observe the regular kindergarten session. If desirable, ask children in groups of two or three to visit without parents. Encourage them to participate in any group activity or play.
 3. Invite all the children to attend a spring program.
 4. Stagger children for small group visits during the fall admission period. Extend the time over any period necessary to enroll all beginning children.

5. Hold a *Mothers' Tea* or similar meeting to give group instruction.
At such a meeting:
 - Explain the schedule.
 - Discuss transportation plans and problems.
 - Inform parents of procedures concerning the milk program, absences, the taking of trips, school health regulations.
 - Introduce parents to each other.
 - Ask for mothers interested in being *Room Mothers*, volunteer aides, assistants at PTA, or resource people.
 - Encourage parents to visit school, establishing the fact that they are always welcome. (Rapport is an invaluable aid in resolving any later differences).
 - Build confidence in the fact that you, the kindergarten teacher will give careful supervision and individual guidance to each child.
6. Visit the home if this is feasible or advisable.
7. Send the children each a card welcoming them to kindergarten.

Other techniques for the betterment of home-school relationships include:

Registration Day-

Where there has been no previous contact, this becomes the initial meeting of the parent and child with school. The teacher learns about the child's background and observes the child's first reactions to school. The parents and child form their first impression of school and teacher. As much as possible, registration should be informal and pleasant.

Orientation Meetings for Parents-

This is an additional meeting in the beginning of the school year. Such a meeting is fourfold:

1. To establish a cooperative relationship between home and school for the welfare of the children.
2. To build up mutual respect.
3. To prevent any first day difficulties.
4. To relieve apprehensions and tensions.

Orientation of the Children--

The first day of school is usually an exciting experience. Almost every child looks forward to this event with great anticipation. For some children the adjustment from home to school is a smooth, successful one. For others it may be a disappointing, frightening or over-stimulating occasion.

To help the child feel at ease and to become acquainted with the new environment the teacher should:

1. Greet each one personally and informally using the child's name and making some comment of welcome.
2. See that each child meets others casually and informally.
3. Give the child time and freedom to explore the room and to investigate the materials and equipment available.
4. Keep familiar materials, such as housekeeping toys, blocks, crayons, paper and books readily available. During the first days, give the child personal supervision in their use.
5. Show the children where to put their wraps and the location of toilet facilities.
6. Point out the location of drinking fountains and routes to the playground.
7. Allow children to explore the playground and the surrounding grounds. If there is a special section for kindergarten, emphasize what its limits are.
8. See that the class becomes acquainted with school patrols and bus drivers early in the year in order to establish a respectful and trusting relationship.
9. Have the class visit the principal to emphasize that he or she is a friendly person.

Parent-Teacher Meetings--

Such meetings are to help the parent and teacher to become better acquainted. Often held in the beginning of the school year, they provide a means for explaining current classroom programs and for exchanging ideas. Subsequent periodic meetings help to sustain the compatibility established in the initial meeting.

Individual Conferences--

Parent conferences are held to get information, to establish confidence in kindergarten procedures, to solicit parental cooperation, and to give the parent necessary information. Recognized as one of the best ways of reporting to the parent,

the individual conference gives both teacher and parent an excellent means of understanding each other and the child. Caution must be exercised that the conference remains an exchange and not just a period of listening for the parent.

Parent Visits--

Parents should always be welcome in the kindergarten. It may be wise for the teacher to inform the parents of school routines so that visitation time involves an active period rather than a rest time. A sufficient time for adjustment to kindergarten should be given the child before parents notify the teacher of their upcoming visit.

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Home Visits--

By visiting the home the teacher may sometimes find answers to certain behaviors of a child. A visit also tells the parent that someone else is vitally interested in the child.

Telephone Calls--

Probably these are the least effective and informative of all home contacts. Phone calls are fine for reminders and for short recognition of some achievement of the child. Written notes in some areas must be curtailed because of the degree of literacy of the parent.

Home-school contacts such as these help to maintain an *open-door* policy and provide the essential ties that promote basic understanding of the whole school experience.

Registration In The Kindergarten

Although registration has been mentioned, a bit more clarification seems necessary.

Where no *Kindergarten-Roundup* or spring meetings have been held, Registration Day is usually the first contact parents and children have with the kindergarten teacher. For this reason, the teacher should be free to meet with each prospective parent and child. It is suggested the teacher be relieved of any classroom responsibilities for the day. A substitute teacher, paraprofessional or competent parent volunteers can take the regular classes while the teacher is becoming acquainted with the enrollees. This contact serves many purposes:

1. It gives the child a quick overview of *school*.
2. It allows the teacher to take note of children with special needs.
3. It provides an opportunity for talking immediately with parents about meeting such needs before kindergarten begins.

In some schools teachers give the child priority at registration and invite the child to a room for play while volunteer mothers, the school

secretary or principal help the prospective parents register their children. Other teachers allow time at the registration to meet privately with each parent and child. The best procedure seems to be to have the kindergarten teacher free to welcome each new child and parent while others take charge of the formal registration.

If the regular kindergarten must remain in session, children may visit briefly or go to a separate room where such play things as seesaws, trucks, wagons, balls, puzzles, crayons, paper, etc. are provided. This activity usually has the following results:

1. It eliminates some of a child's apprehensions.
2. It builds a rapport through which most children look forward to returning in the fall.
3. It permits the teacher to learn names and faces of children so that recall is easy and immediate when they arrive in September.

Information to be procured at registration should include:

1. Birth certificate
2. Proof of vaccination
3. Initial enrollment card:
 - Child's name
Child's birth date (also number on certificate)
Child's address
 - Date of enrollment
 - Siblings
 - Age
 - Grade level
 - Previous school experience
 - Father's name
Father's address
Father's home phone number

____ Living ____ Separated Divorced

____ Dead

Father's Occupation _____

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Mother's name
Mother's address
Mother's home phone number

____ Living ____ Separated/Divorced
____ ____

____ Dead

Mother's Occupation _____

- Proof of vaccination

Date _____
Place _____

4. Emergency card:

- Child's name
Child's address
Child's phone number
- Father's name
Father's place of occupation
Father's business phone number
- Mother's name
Mother's place of occupation
Mother's business phone number
- Address and phone number of person to be contacted in case of emergency

5. Health inventory

- Checklist of past illness:

Measles	Epilepsy
Smallpox	Rheumatic fever
Diabetes	Diphtheria
Chicken pox	Others
- Family doctor
- Family dentist
- Family hospital
- Any serious illness, operation or injury and age when such occurred

- Dates of immunization:
 - Polio
 - Measles
 - Mumps
 - Smallpox
 - Diphtheria
 - Others
- Allergies

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Reporting to parents is another way in which a wholesome bond between teachers, parents and children can be established. Written reports are often used to supplement parent-teacher meetings and conferences. It must be remembered, however, that the best written report cannot take the place of personal conferences for it is difficult to write objectively all that one might wish to report to parents. The most acceptable information to include in any form of reporting is that which will help parents better understand and provide for their child's development.

Some teachers prefer to write brief statements concerning the child's progress and particular needs of that year. Others prefer a checklist report. The latter is most inadequate because, at best, it can evaluate only a part of the child's total growth. Still others choose to write lengthy evaluations.

Whatever form of reporting is used, the content should be considered carefully. The teacher must be honest with parents, but, at the same time, remember that the child being evaluated is the parents' pride and joy.

A teacher can gain parental confidence by first commenting about a child's desirable qualities and then mentioning the child's limitations and difficulties. This method does not put parents on the defensive and seems a charitable way of reporting.

Parents want to know about their child's progress. They have a right to know and it is the teacher's responsibility to keep them well-informed not only at the end of school but throughout the entire year. When children have major difficulties, it is especially important that parents be made aware of the existing problems and subsequent progress made during the term.

A DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDANCE PROGRAM INCLUDES THE KINDERGARTEN

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Increasing numbers of school districts throughout the Commonwealth, on the basis of much emphasis and study, are on the threshold of expending and adding to their staffs of elementary school guidance counselors. As programs are implemented and new staff added, elementary school guidance is emerging with distinct characteristics and is not merely a downward extension of secondary guidance services.

Current guidance literature stresses *developmental guidance* which in actual practice has various connotations, ranging from the provision of a comprehensive kindergarten through a 12th grade program of services, to a program which includes only preventive services. The following is an attempt to resolve some of the confusion associated with the phrase *developmental guidance* by providing a fundamental statement for a developmental approach to the provision of guidance services in an elementary school. The emphasis is upon early identification of the child's psychological characteristics; diagnosis of the child's learning difficulties, if any; recognition of the child's aptitudes and assets; and the development of resources to meet the child's needs.

A developmental guidance program is founded on the premise that all children in the process of growth and development, encounter certain tasks and must achieve certain goals if they are to progress satisfactorily. All elementary school children are entitled to every service that the school can offer that provides experiences adapted to their individual needs and abilities, and that they realize their potential. The unique make-up of children will affect how they as individuals approach achievement of goals and tasks.

An effective elementary school developmental guidance program is based on certain assumptions. First, that services are provided for all children. Concentration is primarily on typical children with normal developmental needs, not only the exceptional child. Second, child growth is developmental. Guidance assists the child to know, understand, and accept one's own self cognitively and affectively. The developmental approach focuses on the strengths and the encouragement process of the child. Self-actualization is emphasized in terms of the full use and exploration of the child's talents, capacities, and potentialities. Third, the services are supportive and complementary to the classroom teacher. Purpose and personally meaningful learning experiences by the teacher and pupil are stressed. Fourth, guidance is an integral part of the educational process and must be consistent in purpose with the philosophy and objectives of the local educational agency. Planned developmental guidance services reflect a cooperative undertaking involving the child, teacher, parents, administration, and community resources.

Specifically, the elementary school guidance counselor is concerned with the following developmental tasks of childhood: to form concepts of social reality and physical reality; to learn to relate oneself emotionally to parents, siblings, adults and establish wholesome relationships with peers; to develop conscience, morality, and a sense of values; to achieve personal independence; to learn an appropriate feminine or masculine role; to recognize the physical, social, and emotional changes of maturation and to accept those changes; and to develop positive attitudes toward social groups and institutions.

The counselor participates in the creation of an environment conducive to the learning and growth for each child with the professional staff the counselor applies current psychological and guidance principles to curriculum development and classroom behavior. The needs of children as evidenced by their behavior in the educational environment consistent with principles of child development and measurement; are analyzed. The counselor helps to identify learning needs, behaviors, and deficiencies and apply appropriate developmental techniques.

This program provides a continuous sequence of experiences to assist the pupil, teacher, parents, and administrator in assessing, interpreting and consequently providing a learning environment which maximizes both the child's potential and opportunities for learning.

In many ways the guidance counselor can be helpful to the kindergarten teacher and should be recognized as someone to call upon either to help prevent or to solve children's problems. The counselor, for example, may be called upon in instances such as these:

- when a child is thought to be emotionally upset.
- when a child needs diagnostic testing to clarify unsound behaviors or attitudes.
- when a child is too disruptive to be kept in the classroom.
- when a child is noncommunicative.

The counselor may also assist the teacher by:

- sharing observations of the child's behaviors.
- keeping anecdotal records of a child's special needs.
- suggesting techniques of coping with specific needs.
- interpreting test results to teacher and parents.
- making initial or additional parental contacts.

TESTING IN THE KINDERGARTEN

Test construction is divided into two main areas: group and individual. Group tests in the kindergarten are usually standardized, commercially prepared evaluations of reading readiness, achievement, and intelligence. Essentially, these standardized tests compare performance of individual children with the performance of some specific group of children on some particular task. The child's score on the group test is then expressed in terms of how it compares with the group. A basic characteristic of group standardized tests is that they are a measure of past learnings and assume equal exposure to cultural, social, and school environment and school-type learning.

Even after a year's exposure to the kindergarten program it is questionable to administer group tests of any type because:

- All kindergarten children are not able to use the tools and skills necessary for group tests.
- All kindergarten children have not had equal exposure to cultural, social and school-type learnings.
- Kindergarten children should not be compared with performances of a group.
- Too many variables of understanding and response to directions are present in any group of kindergarten children.
- The test score may unduly influence decision making regarding individual children's progress through school.
- The teacher's professional judgment is the most valid and reliable measurement of the child's readiness for the first grade program.
- The kindergarten program is not instituted as an academic-learning situation and should not be so evaluated.
- Standardized tests are based strictly on what happened in the past under the conditions of the past but kindergarten is more concerned with the present and the future.
- In any evaluation the child's background, readiness to respond and individual social, emotional, and physical growth must be considered. This, only the teacher can do. No standardized group test considers these aspects of development.

Although use of group tests in kindergarten is questionable, there is a place for individual evaluation. When a child's behavior, attitudes, and habits are not consistent with positive growth and development, the child should be tested by a teacher, guidance counselor or psychologist. Such individual diagnosis helps the teacher and other school personnel understand the child and the child's behavior and often provides direction in meeting the needs.

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MOVING AHEAD

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PLAY AND WORK IN THE KINDERGARTEN

With the increasing interest in early childhood education comes a host of experts who question long-accepted ways of working with young children. They point to current research that emphasizes the need for cognitive training in the early years of a child's life and interpret this to mean that children no longer need the rich outlet of play but must be taught certain skills and facts. Since these are usually determined by the teacher, the goals are specific, the experiences limited and focused only toward the attainment of these goals, and evaluation is expressed as *good or bad* in terms of whether the goals were achieved.

Because cognitive skill development is generally adult-planned and directed, many children find it difficult to relate and respond to such a curriculum. As a result, their progress is marked by exertion and frustration without an accompanying feeling of satisfaction. **LEARNING IN THIS WAY IS WORK** for the child and is often an unhappy experience. It is differentiated from the adult's concept of play—an activity that is relaxing and engaged in during free, unscheduled hours. As a result, those who are not experienced with children promote formal learning and discount play because they believe that nothing of lasting value can be achieved without frustration and toil.

TO THE CHILD PLAY IS WORK. It is literally a child's vocation. Children develop concepts through experiences with objects and ideas that are important to them. To children—work, play, experimentation, pursuit and inquiry are used interchangeably; all are interrelated inextricably.

The characteristics of work and play are the same, actually appearing on a continuum. A child's activity should be observed not as *work* or *play* but as a combined experience, displaying such elements to be evaluated as concentration, goal-direction, satisfaction and all the learnings and skills involved. The resulting concepts become part of a larger classification system that helps the child understand the world, the people in it and oneself. If, as Edith Margolin suggests, we see play as only recreation, laxness, passivity, invoking low energy patterns, we are limiting the opportunities for children's education and insights. Perhaps the problem is in the labeling and in stereotyped concepts associated with play, not in the content of play itself.

"Observe a child at play. Note how he or she keeps up a flowing chatter, reporting what he or she is doing. Words come alive; he or she experiments with them to express ideas and to get reactions from others. Note how his or her playmates help to clarify meanings for him or her with their use of words. Observe how his or her actions and language represent the level of his or her concept development."

"Watch children in the playhouse, acting out incidents from daily living. They learn to group and categorize foods to be kept in the refrigerator, cutlery in the drawers, furniture appropriate to various rooms. As they live through experiences they observe in their homes, they clarify concepts of various members of the family and act out or solve problems faced in family life. Such activities unlock important meanings for the child."

Edythe Margolin, "Work and Play - Are They Really Opposites?" *Elementary School Journal*, April, 1967.

Cognition requires at least in part that children find a way to think through problems and incorporate in their thinking the learnings from these solutions as guiding principles for later problem solving and for explaining the external world to themselves. The nurturing of cognitive ability is facilitated by the tools the child becomes familiar with in the various subject areas. For example, as children learn to recognize number symbols and then learn to read the thermometer, children know when and why they must wear a snowsuit; or when they are able to compare length of blocks and judge the size of the space to be filled, they can use one long or two smaller blocks to achieve the desired result. Children first act out their thoughts, try an idea through action (live it through play); then they develop the rational ability to think through a situation, to conceive, visualize, and imagine other ideas that they might utilize in a similar situation without acting them out. Later, when they have become skillful in symbolic language, children can represent accurately their thoughts in this abstract form of communication and can use this knowledge of symbols to test and clarify the real world they are experiencing.

Basic understandings in the various subject areas are acquired through activities that many identify as play. Consider the principles of science that are learned in planting seeds in paper or glass containers to take home for mother; in balancing blocks so they will not fall; in erecting a garage for the play truck; in making dessert for a party; or in caring for pets. Reflect on the social learnings that become functional and real when children build a store, stock the shelves, exchange products for play money. Think of the geographic understandings that are clarified when children plot maps of their neighborhood and locate stores, homes, street crossings.

Play is an aspect of the children's attempt to master their world. It is their medium for learning what they want to and ought to learn. The play that is advocated in kindergarten is work to a child. Kindergartners expend great effort in completing what they set out to do, creating something that is meaningful to themselves and others. What more important aspects of work are there than effort, finishing what one starts, creating something that is meaningful?

Piaget, Bruner and others support the proposition that children cannot move toward abstraction and reasoning without a broad base of direct encounters from which to abstract and generalize. This defines much of kindergarten work-manipulation, first-hand experiences, use of concrete materials. It identifies equally that part of the curriculum called *play*.

Play in brief, is vital to the child as a time for:

- relaxation and hard work.
- release of tensions and conflicts.
- use of muscles and physical self.
- happy pursuit of free choice.
- pleasure in doing.

- satisfaction of needs and tastes.
- development of concepts.
- shaping of values and attitudes.
- growth in language and other skills.
- development of an inquiring mind.
- initiation of good work habits.

To the teacher a child's play is equally important for it affords an opportunity to observe the child's:

- interpersonal relationships.
- social maturity.
- tensions, conflicts, aggressions, fears.
- happiness, satisfactions, pleasures.
- physical abilities, inadequacies.
- attitudes and significant aspects of personality.
- interpretation of the world and the child's experiences in it.
- need for more intellectual stimulation.
- skills, either latent or obvious.
- mode of relaxation, release of energies.
- personal, behavioral and developmental needs.

Perhaps most of all, through play children demonstrate what is important to them. The astute teacher uses this evidence as a basis for the shaping and nurturing of the child.

Industrial arts, in a very simple sense, is a component of all the other activities of the work-play period. The active child has already begun to demonstrate such major themes as design, use of tools and knowledge of materials when building with blocks, or wood and bricks or when sawing, nailing, and painting a toy or original model. The child's practical experience with paper, electricity, wood and metal toys, charts and books, and the daily use of crayons, paints, sawdust, glue and innumerable other items lead to a wide variety of *lessons* in crafts.

The objectives of these activities which have been termed industrial arts are to further the basic goals of the elementary school rather than

to further objectives which may be considered as being uniquely those of industrial arts. The emphasis is not on the product but rather on how experimenting with tools and materials can help the child to:

- develop manipulative skills.
- gain new concepts.
- learn additional vocabulary.
- understand basic principles of safety.
- enjoy an acceptable outlet for release of tension.
- acquire an initial knowledge of life in a technological world.

The interdependence of children and their peers as they plan and work together promotes major intellectual development.

Doing things with concrete objects is exciting to children. Their built-in motivation and their exploratory, manipulative natures make industrial arts appealing to almost all of them but especially to children whose early learning environments have been impoverished. The opportunity to turn blocks of wood into a train or a corrugated box into a boat helps children see that they can manipulate their environment to serve their purpose. As children probes and build, they develop the simple versions of basic concepts that eventually lead to more abstract and creative ways of proceeding.

THE LANGUAGE ARTS PROGRAM

An individual's ability to use symbolic language for communication purposes is probably the most essential skill in learning. Without it the source of information remains locked and thinking is restricted. This explains in part why language arts holds such a prominent place in the school curriculum, beginning at the earliest level be it nursery school or kindergarten.

Facility in language develops from constant exposure to its symbols plus opportunity to use them. This is the reason parents and adults are urged to keep up a regular chatter or prattle with children from the time of birth. Even when it seems that the child is too young to be aware, the child is learning from this early experience with language and through such communication with adults is encouraged to try out sounds. From this trial use and the adult's interpretation the child learns to assign meaning to a particular sound or pattern of sounds.

For example, a parent's consistent talking with the baby brings about a *cooing*. The baby not only enjoys hearing and making this sound but likes getting the recognition of others. As the baby continues to experiment with the voice, lips, and tongue, the sound pattern begins to change into something that resembles *da-a-a*. When fond father appears and responds, *Dada is coming. Dada! dada!*, the child learns to associate the male figure with this particular response wanted.

In similar fashion, words are learned but if children receive no encouragement in this learning, their speech suffers. A child entering kindergarten generally has a vocabulary of around 2500 words and has facility in putting words into patterns to express thoughts or ask questions. The child has acquired concepts and information that are basic to communication from:

- hearing the language.
- having first-hand experiences.
- using the language to express ideas and to ask questions.

In short, the child has learned to converse.

The kindergarten program builds on the language the child brings to school—be it limited or enriched, considered socially acceptable or crude. Knowing that language develops from practice and as a person feels a need for expression, the kindergarten teacher encourages talk and arranges experiences from which the child can gain ideas to communicate with others.

This means that language arts is really a two-faceted program:

- One supplies the content (what one talks about).
- The other provides practice with the symbolic language.

Content comes from experiences such as:

- informal conversation
- classroom discussions
- show and tell time
- poems, rhymes and fingerplays
- stories
- films and filmstrips
- drama
- experimentations
- field trips
- use of resource materials

Practice is achieved through:

- listening
- conversing
- discussing
- reporting
- telling a story
- creating expression
- dramatizing
- playing language games
- singing
- giving directions
- observing social amenities
- delivering a message
- reading

In detail, this practice includes:

I. LISTENING-

To:

- each other
- records
- stories
- poems, rhymes
- discussions
- music
- sounds
- directions
- announcements
- films
- tape recordings

For the purpose of:

- abstracting central or important ideas
- noting relationships and sequence of events

- . discovering feelings and actions of people or characters
- . securing sensory images
- . organizing ideas for retelling
- . hearing and discriminating sounds in language (rhymes, beginning sounds)
- . developing a more precise and enriched vocabulary
- . learning the order of words in a sentence
- . improvising sentence patterns
- . making critical judgments
- . sharing the ideas of others
- . clarifying personal thoughts, concepts
- . discovering ways of solving problems
- . adding to the knowledge one already has

2. CONVERSATION-

About:

- . birthdays
- . family events
- . illness, fears or personal concerns
- . experiences in and out of school
- . new items in the room
- . unexpected or interesting happenings
- . visitors
- . a new toy or pet
- . a national event
- . TV program or advertisement
- . any subject of interest to the children

During:

- . work and play

- . in the playhouse
- . as children arrive
- . at the tables
- . on the playground
- . at snack time
- . in the cloak room
- . in the centers of interest
- . at dismissal

With:

- . the teacher
- . one child
- . several children
- . a large group
- . a parent
- . a visitor
- . the principal
- . any school personnel

3. DISCUSSION-

About:

- . daily plans, procedures
- . excursions, field trips
- . emotional reactions to an event
- . classroom problems
- . the appearance of objects
- . care of materials, equipment
- . planned units of study
- . likes and dislikes
- . unexpected events, change of plans
- . health and safety
- . *timely topics* whatever they may be

4. REPORTING-

About:

- . a unit of study
- . an event at home
- . local or national news
- . reactions to an excursion
- . a lost-and-found item
- . the date and plans for a future event

- . how to do something
- . incidents on the way to school
- . discoveries on field trips
- . a special experience

5. TELLING A STORY-

That:

- . someone told or read
- . is original
- . adds to a subject of general interest
- . is seasonal
- . has an unusual focus
- . is just an old favorite
- . has a deep-rooted meaning for the child

6. DRAMATIZING-

Through:

- . favorite poems, fingerplays, rhymes, stories
- . roleplay of people, situations, events
- . puppets (stick, paperbag, paper plate, stocking, finger puppets, etc.)
- . interpretive movement to express moods and emotions
- . charades, pantomime
- . choral speaking

7. LANGUAGE GAMES-

For vocabulary enrichment and concept development.

Through:

- . roleplay of expressions, such as: *tall and straight, limp as a rag doll, wiggly as a worm.*
- . acting out words, such as: *jostle, crunch and sway*
- . playing games, such as: *Let's Pretend* (Let's pretend we're on a magic carpet-- Let's pretend we're all tiny as mice--)

New Words for Old Game

- Introduce new words in daily conversations.
- Call attention to unusual words a child or visitor has used.
- Recall new vocabulary (e.g. film or filmstrip).
- Describe the day as not just *rainy* but *dreary, drippy, wet, sloppy, miserable, etc.*
- Find words that have similar meanings (i.e., big, large, huge, enormous, gigantic).
- Exchange an English word for a foreign one when necessary.

Rhyming Words Games - (Know a word that rhymes with — ball, ring, fun, play, etc.).

Beginning Sounds Game - (Know a word that begins like — ball, sing, like, etc.).

Improvement of speech sounds through many games.

8. CREATIVE EXPRESSION-

That lets children:

- make new words.
- create silly jingles.
- draw nonsense pictures and describe them.
- tell how they feel or what they see in their own unique fashion.
- start a story.
- complete a story.
- decide on their own tasks.
- suggest unusual solutions to problems.

React to specific words such as *mother, fun, cat* or any other word that might bring a varied response.

Think about novel ideas

- *What is red . . .*
- *So many things are blue . . .*

Discuss a visit to a store or other buildings in expanded fashion:

- ways children might have traveled there (walk, ride, run, skip, march, hop, strut, etc.).
- the parts of the building (floor, ceiling, aisles, counters, showcases, lights, entrances, exits).
- the different kinds of people children saw on the way (by occupation—clerk, milkman, garbage collector, street cleaner, policeman or woman, etc.) (by age or size—baby, little girl, big brother, grandma, toddler, etc.).
- the weather they experienced (cold, clear, lovely, cloudy).
- what they could have purchased in the building.
- what other buildings are in the town.

9. SINGING (discussed under Fine Arts)

10. GIVING DIRECTIONS—

For:

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| - a game | - a method |
| - a task | - a solution |
| - a place | - a rule |

11. DELIVERING A MESSAGE—

To:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| - the principal | - parents |
| - the teacher | - another child |

12. OBSERVING SOCIAL COURTESIES—

When:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| - playing | - answering the phone |
| - greeting visitors | - arriving or departing |
| - working with others | |

13. WRITING

To improve:

- small muscle control

eye-hand coordination

the child's understanding of the necessity for and the uses of writing

the child's interest in writing

Through:

manipulative activity of all kinds, indoors and outdoors

- playhouse activities

- block play

- simple table games

- practice with wrist and hand strengthening devices

- rhythmic activities, bodily response

- art activities

- drawing

- pasting

- painting

- sawing

- cutting

- hammering

- manuscripting own name (if the child wants to)

- writing simple labels or signs

- signing cards or letters

- copying letters or words the child sees around the room

- writing what one wishes

functional preparation for writing

- dictating letters and stories

- recognizing own name

- enjoying charts and displays

- making signs for and decorating the bulletin board

- creating invitations

- labeling personal locker

- addressing and signing Valentines

Recognizing that there will be a wide range in the language abilities of any kindergarten class, the teacher must be ready for all the noncommunicative students and the far advanced child who knows that:

symbolic language is made up of sounds which are represented by letters that are arranged in certain patterns to form words that are placed in a particular order to express meaning.

This is why much teaching must be individualized. Kindergarten, with its informal large block of activity time, lends itself well to a one-child-to-one-teacher relationship. During the period of free choice, the teacher has an excellent opportunity for direct teaching with a single child at the level on which he or she is operating.

Certain language arts skills, however, can be learned equally well in group situations. To be practical, the teacher may work with individuals, small groups of children or the total class in any language experience.

In all such activities both direct teaching and informal learning situations can be used to assure:

- a. The acquisition of new ideas and words.
- b. The clarification and accuracy of concepts.
- c. The development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

It seems important to re-emphasize that facility in language comes only from practice and practice comes from being allowed and encouraged to talk. Silent children in silent classrooms cannot develop fluency in speech. It is the teacher's continuing task, therefore, to:

- a. Arrange experiences that foster verbal reaction.
- b. Plan opportunities for the learner to talk with a friend (teacher or child), a small group or a large group.
- c. Encourage the children to use the new vocabulary they have acquired.
- d. Help every child improve *total* communication—verbal gesture, body movement, facial reactions.

By the same token, if children are to develop satisfactory listening skills, they need a good model. The teacher, therefore, must be sure to:

- a. Listen thoughtfully to children.
- b. Look at the speaker.
- c. Compliment good listeners.
- d. Overlook distractions.

- e. Let a child talk without correcting grammar errors.
- f. Avoid repeating responses of children.
- g. Let children restate and clarify.

MATHEMATICS IN THE KINDERGARTEN

Mathematics is the overall science of dealing with the relationships of quantity, measurement and properties.

In the kindergarten the development of these concepts occur largely as an integral part of all other activities. From the abundant materials, situations and experiences in an active kindergarten, the competent teacher abstracts those learnings that are mathematical and have relevancy for 5-year-olds.

In addition, the teacher plans for a variety of number situations to insure that discoveries and concepts occur in quantity and quality. These first mathematical experiences can be made realistic and enjoyable by providing the children with a variety of manipulative materials and guiding them in their use.

Many of today's kindergartners have been exposed to the world of numbers via television, telephone numbers, allowances and family shopping and bring with them varying concepts of number. For this reason today's teacher has the unique role of:

1. Assessing each child's personal awareness of numbers since every child's own level of mathematical understanding differs. One child may comprehend only what two things are; another may understand two hundred things and ways of using them.
2. Diagnosing the child's individual competencies and readiness for further mathematical learnings.
3. Adding those experiences that will develop additional concepts.

Whether number activities are planned or incidental, certain experiences occur in any good kindergarten. Through these experiences the teacher continually assesses each child's developmental level and then provides for those individual needs. The teacher also encourages the development of numerical concepts by surrounding the child with mathematical devices and ample opportunity to use them.

Such materials may include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| · an abacus | · boxes of beads, buttons, |
| · a number line on the wall | stones, or beans for counting |
| or floor | · bingo or lotto cards |
| · sets of picture cards | · dominoes |
| · sets of number cards | · numbered blocks |
| · sets of numerals | · simple number games and puzzles |
| · individual flannel boards | · weights |
| · one large flannel board | · clock |
| · sets of felt cut-outs | · scales |

. geometric figures of	. measuring cups, spoons
. felt, wood or cardboard	. pint and quart containers
. individual slates	. tape measure
. chalk	. ruler, yardstick

Whatever their levels of understanding, children can be helped through games, observations, discussions, discovery and use of things about them to develop initial or extended concepts of:

. quantity	. shape	. temperature
. place	. size	. weight
. distance	. speed	. height
. numerals	. relationships	. sets and subsets
. ordinals	. simple mental	. grouping
. number	. computation	. counting

During the year the average kindergartner should have experience with and show some facility in these areas:

1. COUNTING

- count objects to 10 or more (milk bottles, napkins, blocks, straws, girls, boys, cookies, dishes, dominoes, books, crayons, flannel board cutouts, pictures, papers, characters in a story, objects on a page, children in a game, pegs, toys, beads, items in a collection, etc.).
- Understand ordinals (first, second, third, etc.).
 - . first name, last name
 - . first grade, second grade, etc.
 - . first in line, second in line, etc.
 - . first day of the week, fifth day, etc.
 - . first song, third song, last one
 - . directions given in sequence
 - . second row, fourth row
 - . group experiences retold in order
- Finds one-to-one correspondence in the classroom.
 - . one coat for one child
 - . one cookie for one child
 - . one box for one child
 - . one chair for one child
 - . one bottle of milk for one child
 - . one locker for each child

2. GROUPING and SETS

- Knows that a set may be a group of similar objects or a collection of different objects:
 - . Different (a dog, a child, a wagon)
 - . Similar (a group of children, a herd of sheep)

- Understands sets of two to 10.
 - . pairs, twins
 - . parts of body (arms, legs, feet, eyes)
 - . couples in games, dances
 - . sets of wheels on moveable toys
 - . sets in stories (Three Bears, Five Chinese Brothers)
 - . groups of children
 - . piles of beads, pegs, blocks
 - . groups in pictures or books
 - . symbols on the calendar (set of sunny symbols, rainy ones)
 - . objects on the flannel board
 - . sets in clothing (shoes, gloves, socks, mittens)
- Recognizes on sight sets of two to six.
- Sees differences, similarities in sets.

3. NUMBER SYMBOLS

- Begins to recognize number symbols from zero to 10.
 - . dates on calendar
 - . addresses
 - . ages
 - . telephone numbers
 - . clock numerals
 - . number games
 - . flash cards
 - . number puzzles
 - . TV signs
 - . in newspapers, magazines, comic books

4. TIME

- Begins to understand this abstract concept through observation, conversations and functional experiences such as:
 - . It's time to go home.
 - . Our clock says 9 o'clock; it's time to begin.
 - . It's time for a story.
 - . We arrived early today.
 - . When the snow stops, we will go outside.
 - . Ten o'clock! Snack time!
 - . Could you work a bit faster?
 - . We haven't much time.
 - . You will soon be six.
 - . Next year you will go to 1st grade.
 - . It's time to clean up.
 - . You may play a little longer.

- . I go to bed after my favorite TV show.
- . When both hands reach the 12, it will be time for lunch.
- . When we go out to play, what time does the clock say?
- . Tomorrow is our party.
- . Yesterday was a rainy day.
- . Today a new year begins.
- . How many days are on the calendar?
- . Yesterday was Monday; today is Tuesday.
- . On Saturday and Sunday we sleep longer.
- . In two days it will be vacation time!
- . It's almost time to go.
- . Today we must finish what we started yesterday.
- . This afternoon we will have a treat.
- . When is your birthday?
- . Let's mark our holidays on the calendar.

5. MEASUREMENT

- Begins to understand linear measurement through experimentation with:

- . rulers, yardsticks, tape measures, varying lengths of string, wood
- . comparison of sizes of objects (dolls, balls, blocks, pencils, children) -
- . measuring distances of jumps, hops or bean bag toss
- . playing *kangaroo hops*, *bunny hops*, *baby steps*, *giant steps*
- . using vocabulary such as:

big	higher	farther
little	highest	farthest
far	short	tall
more	shorter	taller
many	shortest	tallest
line	as short as	long
height	big	longer
wide	bigger	longest
narrow	biggest	as long as
large	small	as wide as
larger	smaller	as many as
high	smallest	near

- Begins to understand liquid measure through:

- . planned cooking activities
- . incidental waterplay experiences
- . use of pint, quart measures; teaspoon, tablespoon, cup, half-cup
- . using vocabulary such as:

more	enough	the most
less	as much as	the least

- Develops an understanding of weight through:
 - . observing various objects and guessing which is lighter, heavier (feather, brick, stone, balloon, lollipop, full and empty milk cartons)
 - . lifting objects to compare weights
 - . using kitchen scales to measure the objects and other items such as:
 - a pound of candy a box of matches
 - a sack of flour a loaf of bread
 - . using large scales to weigh children
- Recognizes the thermometer as a means of measuring temperature through its use:
 - . in cooking . in television and radio reports
 - . on furnaces . in the outdoors
- Notes differences in temperature:
 - . indoors . at the window
 - . outdoors . on the floor
 - . in the refrigerator . in various rooms of the school
 - . near the radiator . in hot water, cold water
- Begins to use fractions through functional uses such as:
 - . folding papers in half
 - . dividing papers into four equal parts
 - . dividing paint into two or more jars
 - . dividing children into equal groups for games
 - . cutting apples into halves, quarters
 - . breaking a cookie in half
 - . filling a glass half full
 - . talking about all, most, half, a little, part of
 - . coming to school for half a day
 - . dividing the group in half for a game
 - . asking half the class to sing one song, half another

6. MONEY

- Can identify penny, nickel, dime, quarter.
- Has some sense of cost through:
 - . playing *store*
 - . using real or play coins
 - . discussing charts of coins (i.e., a nickel will buy the same as five pennies)
 - . going to the corner store to buy
 - straws popcorn
 - cookies candy

seeds	a pumpkin
decorations	Valentines
a jump rope	a get-well card

- . buying tickets for a train trip
- . visiting the post-office to purchase stamps for letters, cards, packages
- . paying for milk, lunches
- . paying admission to children's theaters, special movies, programs
- . spending allowances

7. FORMS and SHAPES

- Recognizes basic geometric shapes. (circle, triangle, rectangle, square).
- Understands such shapes through use of:

. paper	. games and game formations
. blocks	. pictures
. rhythm instruments	. felt cutouts
. toys	
- Finds geometric shapes in the kindergarten room:

. floor tiles	. furniture tops
. windows	. lockers
. clock	. toys
. flag	. doors
. wall blocks	. lights

8 SPACE

- Demonstrates the meaning of spatial vocabulary:

. inside, outside	. middle
. on, in	. first, last
. over, under	. above, below
. near, far	. beside, aside of
. next to, between	. next to last
. top, bottom	. within
- Explains space through dramatic play of imaginary:

. boats	. jets
. cars	. swings
. rockets	. seesaws
. airplanes	. merry-go-rounds
- Gets a feeling of space through:

. twisting	. skipping
. twirling	. dancing
. jumping	. swinging
. running	. climbing

SOCIAL SCIENCE IN THE KINDERGARTEN

The entire program of kindergarten is actually a study in social living. It is for this reason that much emphasis is placed upon the skills and attitudes of working and playing with one another, and upon such social learnings as:

- sharing.
- taking turns.
- developing independence.
- accepting authority of adults.
- respecting the rights of others.
- recognizing the interdependence of all people.
- assuming responsibility.
- caring for personal and group property.
- completing assignments and free choice activities.
- showing consideration for others.
- developing a wholesome self-image.

To these learnings early childhood experts are now suggesting that certain opportunities and experiences can be provided for the development of simple, basic concepts from the social sciences. It must be emphasized that no formal teaching in the social sciences should be imposed upon young children but activities and experiences within the realm of their understanding may be used. Spodek, experimenting with concept development in the realm of time and distance, supports this by finding that kindergarten children:

- have a wide background of information in areas previously considered inappropriate for children.
- deal with ideas over a long period of time, returning often to clarify and modify new information.
- use a wide variety of materials and experiences in developing social concepts and ideas.
- can begin to use the tools of the social scientist in learning about the world.

Actually, within the kindergarten many experiences occur that help children grasp the significance of change which has taken place through time. Other activities begin to give kindergartners some orientation to space, direction, people and places around the world.

Children are learning about history when they:

- take trips to museums to see relics of the past.
- watch selected historical programs on TV
- view historical films (i.e., *Little Girl of Long Ago*).
- listen to stories from history.
- look at books of long-ago times.
- try on old-fashioned clothing.
- examine family albums or photographs of ancestors.
- sing songs and play games that children of the past enjoyed.
- use customs from festivals of other lands (i.e., the Pinata).
- try some old-fashioned practices (i.e., husking corn, churning butter).
- discuss heroes, holidays, famous birthdays.

They are learning about geography when they:

- take a walk through their school building.
- find out where everything is in the kindergarten (why not make a simple map of the room).
- make a map of the school grounds and their neighborhood area.
- take a trip, share pictures or souvenirs of such a trip.
- observe the sun, feel the direction of the wind.
- handle the globe; want to know where they live on it.
- discuss geographic aspects of television programs (*cowboys of the West, across the ocean, to the moon*).
- talk about places *far away and close by*.
- read stories that emphasize directions (i.e., *East of the Sun and West of the Moon!*).
- watch selected television programs of people and places.
- read magazines of geographic nature.
- look at travel posters of America and of foreign places.
- see pictures of other lands; hear stories about them.

They are learning about sociology when they:

- develop the previously mentioned skills of social living.
- study about their families.
- learn how their school functions.
- begin to understand the operations of their community.

They are learning about economics when they:

- bring their milk money.
- play store.
- take walking tours to points of interest (i.e., stores, markets).
- build and operate a post office.
- visit a factory (perhaps a toy factory).
- buy something for a project (apples to make applesauce, cream to make butter, sugar to ice cookies).
- plant a garden.
- take good care of school property.
- watch community helpers at work.
- discuss occupations of fathers, mothers.
- visit the airport.
- take a train or bus ride.
- read selected stories on occupations.
- share housekeeping duties (to illustrate the division of labor).
- discuss the fact that families must work together.
- have a cookie sale (this illustrates the principle of profit).
- talk about the weather (if it rains, we cannot hold our school festival!) and how it affects economics of an area.
- discuss the principle that everyone needs to work and that it is good to work.
- demonstrate economy in the use of crayons, paints, clay.

- discuss how going to school affects the kind of work one does when he grows up.
- understand that no one can live without others; all people are interdependent; see films or filmstrips to illustrate this principle.

Although very early in life children begin to be aware of economic principles, through *payday*, allowances, their fathers' jobs, even relief checks, it must be remembered that 5-year-old impressions and concepts of such experiences are fragmentary and somewhat fleeting. To avoid completely fragmentary learnings in any area of the social sciences, the teacher will have to do two things:

- Capitalize on the *teachable moments* as they present themselves.
- Plan to some degree the experiences that may help to develop such concepts.

Since experiences tend to have deeper meaning when they are the result of interest in a particular subject, the following units are suggested as being pertinent to young children and their social concepts.

- Children Around The World Go To School
- Fun and Games In Many Places
- Everybody Has a Home
- Everybody Works
- People In My Town
- Families: How They Help Each Other
- My School Family
- Friends Near and Far
- Let's Take a Trip
- On My Vacation

ALL ABOUT TRIPS

Trips Are Important

No classroom can offer every learning activity that is advantageous to children, but the good kindergarten attempts to make available as many as possible. One of the most beneficial of such opportunities is the taking of trips. Excursions, simple or extensive, stimulate interest in learning and enrich classroom experiences in many ways. Properly conducted, they give the children:

1. Opportunity for first-hand investigation.

All healthy young children explore their environment. It is their way of discovering the world. They are not content, however, with probing only immediate surroundings but are quite conscious of that larger world beyond themselves. For some children investigation will be an enrichment device; for others it will fill the deep-seated need of enlarging upon meager backgrounds.

2. Experience in gathering information.

All children *want*, all children *need* to know the how, why, what, where of things. Bits of information gathered on trips eventually add up to a wealth of information which children use to deepen their understanding and to exchange with others.

3. Avenues to broaden or to develop new concepts.

Investigation of the world about them often leads to discovery of new and bigger ideas about animals, water, growing things, rocks, minerals, people, places, and innumerable other subjects. It helps, also, to change misconceptions or misinformation that children innocently acquire.

4. Simple perspective of processes in a technological age.

Today's children are surrounded by economy, efficiency and speed. They often have no knowledge of simple, behind-the-scenes processes involved in the making or marketing of such things as milk, butter, bread, candy, applesauce, etc. Neither do they understand how buildings are heated, what homes would be like without electricity or what goes into a new building. First-hand observations help to initiate or clarify understandings of this nature.

5. Comprehensible activity to direct, discuss and imitate.

Children are fascinated most by what they understand, and what they understand, they mimic. This is the reason kindergartners are always involved in playing doctor, nurse, fireman, bus driver, mother, daddy. It explains also why they seldom play lawyer or

president. From their play, children show a teacher what and how much they comprehend and how well they relate to the world about them. Youngsters who have had a minimum of interaction need especially well-chosen trips and experiences to enlarge their understanding.

6. Partial answers that raise more questions.

Although it is important to plan carefully and to discuss with the children what to look for on an excursion, it is well to remember that children do not notice the same things as adults. Boys and girls usually concentrate on things that are important to them, on what is close to them, and on things that are active and exciting. No one can really hurry them or push them. They learn at their own pace and in their own way. They find answers to what they want to know and ask questions relative to the same. If the teacher remains relaxed about the quantity and speed of the children's learning, he/she will probably be rewarded with a richness of quality that he/she least expects.

Choose Them Wisely

Trips are not to be taken haphazardly nor on the spur-of-the-moment. If they are to have any real value, they must be chosen wisely and planned carefully. There was a time when excursions were just *something to do* or were purely for fun, but today educators feel that trips should have specific purposes and be related to some definite unit of study. In choosing trips, therefore, the teacher has many things to consider:

1. The range of the children's interests.
2. Their particular needs and abilities.
3. Their levels of maturity.
4. Their backgrounds of experience.
5. Their emotional and social reliability.

Proper assessment of these attributes is always important, but particularly so in the beginning of the year. It is at this time that the teacher is especially alert to clues indicating children's interests, knowledge and concerns. It is then that the teacher looks for evidence to help decide in what directions individual and group horizons need extending.

Begin With Your Community

Sometimes the most exciting trips are those that can be taken in the immediate neighborhood. These *walking tours* often uncover local resources of merit and fun. A class might, for example, decide to do any of the following:

1. Visit the barber, doctor, grocery store to get a fresh perspective of an old experience.

2. Tour a dairy store to find all the products of milk.
3. Buy doughnuts or cookies at the bakery.
4. Look for new families in the neighborhood.
5. Buy a pumpkin or seeds or popcorn at the corner delicatessen.
6. Walk to see the effects of a severe rain or snowstorm.
7. Take a *spring* walk, a *fall* walk to see the signs of the season.
8. Look for winter birds; feed them.
9. Investigate pets in the neighborhood.
10. Take walks *just for fun*.
 - Run in the park.
 - Go wading, if possible.
 - Have a picnic.
 - Pick wild flowers.
 - Hunt acorns.
 - Walk in the rain.
 - Go sledging.
11. Visit local recreational facilities.
12. Check lawns, alleys, to see whether area is clean, well kept, an asset to the neighborhood.
13. Observe community helpers - street cleaners, leaf collectors, garbage collectors, etc.
14. Visit a neighborhood resource person to find out about anything with child appeal.
 - Artists.
 - Tropical fish experts.
 - Candlemakers.
 - Cake decorators.
 - Weavers.
 - Jelly makers.
 - Antique car collectors.
 - Backyard zookeepers.
 - Beekeepers.
 - Wood carvers.
 - Snake collectors.
 - Any other person with a unique interest.

Include The Outside World

Many times the class may wish to take longer excursions. Some have much value; others need to be assessed carefully. Before deciding upon many

trips of a more extensive nature, it is well to consider the following things:

1. Does the trip have any real relationship to the total program or to a specific area of learning?
2. How dependable is the children's behavior?
3. How many of the class have already taken a similar trip?
4. Is a particularly long trip really the best way of accomplishing your goal?
5. Do you have willing chaperones sufficient both in quantity and capability?
6. Is this a trip that might have more merit at a later grade level?
7. Is the season of the year suitable for the trip under consideration?

Whatever their nature, trips provide adventure, significant experiences and stimulating change from routine. Chosen carefully, used wisely, expedited efficiently, they elevate life in the classroom above the mundane.

Suggested Trips

The following trips have merit for children in kindergarten and primary grades. Choose as many as seem feasible for the class you are teaching:

1. Farm (chicken, horse, pig, cattle, general farm).
2. Museum.
3. Park.
4. Zoo.
5. Dairy.
6. Bakery.
7. Fire station.
8. Police station.
9. Airport.
10. Greenhouse.
11. Hatchery.
12. Fish pond.
13. Children's home.
14. Old folk's home.
15. Industries (i.e., a toy factory).
16. Another kindergarten (i.e., an orthopedic kindergarten or a class for deaf children).
17. Construction site.
18. Waterworks.
19. Lake, pond, river, ocean.
20. Public library.
21. Railroad station.
22. Shipyard.
23. Docks.
24. Forest.
25. Children's theatre.

26. Symphony concert for children.
27. Nature walks.
28. Places of worship.
29. Specialty shops.
30. Shopping centers.
31. Children's movie.
32. Puppet show or play.
33. Train ride.
34. Candy factory.
35. Orchard.
36. Television station.
37. Roadside market.
38. Any other facility that might be of interest to children.

SCIENCE IN THE KINDERGARTEN

To the young child every day is a wonderful, new experience.

- Looking at and feeling the sun, the rain, the wind, sand, mud, water.
- Questions light, darkness, quiet, shadows, places, animals, sounds.

To all this, and more, the child reacts with joy or fear or excitement or simple curiosity and with the help of a perceptive adult begins to understand what is happening and why so that someday a child can relate it to the more distant and complex.

In the kindergarten each simple experience leads to a new one and expands the child's range of awareness. It also encourages the child's natural inquisitiveness so that basic scientific understanding can be achieved without formally introducing science. It has been said that children, above all others, have the true spirit of scientific investigation. They are openminded and nothing is too trivial for them to investigate. In addition to the usual probing children do, it is suggested that some science activities be planned to foster a new consciousness of the world and its wonders.

The kindergarten helps children better understand the environment in which they live by planning experiments, field trips, demonstrations and visits from resource persons. And the kindergarten also provides ample science books, films, filmstrips, pictures, charts, collections and displays.

In a selected area of the room, usually called *The Science Corner*, children are encouraged to use equipment and materials for their own observations. Frequent changing of items in the corner helps to stimulate continued interest.

The science area may include:

Aquarium and supplies	Jars	Dirt
Terrarium	Hinges	Sand
Cages for small animals	Pulleys	Stones
Hot plate	Magnets	Containers
Balloons and pump	Prisms	Magnifying glasses
Gardening supplies	Funnels	Magnetic compass
Tuning fork	Thermometer	Measuring devices
Types of weight scales	Barometer	Collections of all kinds
Seeds and buds	Area for posters and pictures	

A place for all the odds and ends children gather.

Resource books and encyclopedias should also be available to the kindergarten. When children ask questions that the teacher cannot answer, they provide an excellent opportunity for demonstrating to kindergartners where information can be found. The practice of *let's look it up* begun at the age of 5 provides a foundation for lifelong habits of investigation and research.

In kindergarten science the teacher's role is many-faceted. The teacher helps each child:

- Understand the knowledge and information that is inherent in each experience.
- Use their wonder and curiosity freely, but wisely.
- Make discoveries and relate them to previous knowledge.
- Solve very simple problems through making inferences, generalizing and reaching possible conclusions.

The teacher also helps children:

- Appreciate the interrelationship of all life.
- Be aware of order in nature.
- Learn that they can make use of their environment for the improvement of their own life and that of others.

Although there must be more teacher-direction at the kindergarten level, the emphasis is still on the discovery approach and on *learning by doing*. With young children this laboratory-oriented method may stymie the group at first but excitement grows as the teacher skillfully gets the class to really *look, try out and find out*.

Concept development is, of course, the basic concern followed by the learning of simple facts relevant to the child's level of understanding. The kindergarten is particularly adapted to this approach for:

- less material is covered (and kindergartners *usually* move at their own rate).
- more facilities are needed (but simple equipment is easily available to every classroom).

Emphasizing *the big idea* in concept development is important science for 5-year-olds. When talking about growing things, for example, such an idea might be *Plants Grow at Different Rates*. To prove this concept the children may place three or four plants near the window and then hypothesize *How tall will each be in 20 days?* Their goal is to note different sizes in the same growing time.

Although many authors tend to propose rather sophisticated concepts for children, it seems more pertinent for kindergarten teachers to follow these suggestions:

- Choose the *simple* subjects.
- Carry through with *simple* activities.
- Edit plans for dangerous processes (the use of ammonia, i.e., questionable with 5-year-olds).
- Eliminate sophisticated concepts except for exceptional children.
- Arrange activities in order of difficulty.

As suggested, the simple things that every kindergarten class discusses include:

apples	leaves	thermometer
fog	flowers	snow and ice
eggs	birds	magnets
babies	seeds	water
stones, rocks	plants	wind and air
sand	shells	food
soil	pets	health
sun	fish	sounds
people	weeds	bugs
fire	weather	seasons
the farm	caterpillar (butterfly)	animals (wild or domestic)
machines	corn	stars, sky
pumpkins	clouds, storms	airplanes, rockets

As these subjects arise during the year, the children and teacher may work together to develop the following concepts through the suggested or similar activities. Again it must be stressed that because of individual differences, there will be varying levels of scientific understanding and growth.

The recommended method for developing a concept involves questioning, forming an idea, making observations and drawing conclusions. This is the scientific or problem-solving approach and usually follows this format:

1. What do we want to find out?
 - a. Do plants *drink* water?
2. What can we do to find out?
 - a. Put a white Carnation or a Queen Anne's Lace in a glass of colored water. Let it stand overnight.
3. What do we see happening?
 - a. The colored water is going up the stem. The flower is turning the same color as the water.
4. What does this tell us?
 - a. Plants *do drink* water.

SUBJECT	CONCEPTS	SIMPLE ACTIVITIES
<u>Plants</u>	Plants need water.	Get two plants, water only one. Put fresh flowers in a vase with water, put other flowers in vase without water. Watch.
	Plant leaves turn toward the sun.	Place a plant in sunlight. Let it stand for two weeks. Turn it around and see what happens.
	Most plants need water.	Put one plant in the sunlight, put a second plant in a dark corner or closet. Watch daily.
	Some plants change colors in the sunlight.	Place a colea in the sunlight; watch leaves change color.
	Plants need food.	Force early spring blossoms (forsythia) by putting sprigs in water. Watch blossoms sprout. Note how blossoms die because water is not enough food. The blossoms need the mother plant to make <i>new</i> food to continue growth.
	Plants need warmth to develop and flower.	Watch bush outdoors; bring in several sprigs of the bush. Let them blossom and compare the sprigs with the bush.
	Plants need air.	Put a small plant in one bottle without a lid. Put a second plant in another bottle with a lid. Do <i>not</i> remove the lid. Watch results.
	Most plant roots grow downward.	Put wet cotton in a glass jar. Place seeds (lima beans, i.e.) on cotton. Keep watered. Watch roots grow downward.

SUBJECT	CONCEPTS	SIMPLE ACTIVITIES
Plants (cont'd)	Plant roots grow around things that get in their way.	Put wood or stones in a jar of soil. Plant seeds near the obstacle. Watch roots grow around or over them.
	Plants grow from many things.	Use cuttings, seeds, bulbs.
	Plants provide food for people and animals.	Try carrot tops, potatoes, onions, leaves, seeds, (flower, grapefruit, avocado, apple) geranium sprigs.
		Eat plant foods:
		that grow below the ground:
		. potatoes . parsnips
		. beets . onions
		. carrots . peanuts
		. turnips
		that grow above the ground:
		. tomatoes . celery
		. lettuce . cabbage
		. cauliflower . parsley
		. watercress . peppers
		. rhubarb . strawberries
		that grow in pods:
		. beans . peas
		. peanuts.

SUBJECT

Air (cont'd)

CONCEPTS

Air takes up space.

Air lifts things.

Air moves.

Moving air is *wind*.

Air has moisture.

Air (oxygen) helps fires burn.

Air has dust in it.

SIMPLE ACTIVITIES

Put a dry tissue or hanky in a glass. Invert in a bowl of water; the air keeps the tissue dry.

Fly a kite on a windy day.

Hold a streamer in the air on a windy day.

Watch airplanes in the sky.

Spray an aerosol freshener in one corner of a room; smell the odor as it moves to other corners.

Watch smoke in the air.

Toss a hat into the wind.

Watch the leaves twirling.

Note clothes dancing on a line.

See hair blowing in the wind!

Put ice cubes into an aluminum cup or tumbler; watch moisture form on outside of container.

Breathe on a pane of glass or mirror; see moisture.

Put a candle in a jar. Light it. Watch it burn until oxygen is used.

Watch the rays of the sun as they come through the window. Note the dust particles.

SUBJECT

Air (cont'd)

CONCEPTS

Air slows falling things.

Water has air in it.

Water In Everyday Life

Water has many forms.

SIMPLE ACTIVITIES:

Make a small parachute from a spoon and a handkerchief. Toss it in the air on a windy day and watch what happens.

Fill a bottle with faucet water. Put the bottle on a windowsill. Watch the air bubbles rise to the top of the water.

Freeze ice cubes.

Boil water to make steam.

Let steam flow into a glass container; watch it turn back into water.

Bring snow into the room; let it melt into water.

Gather hail, if possible.

Walk in the dew.

Note the frost on window-panes.

Watch icicles form and melt.

Water has many uses (it helps people in many ways.)

Discuss the use of water in the following ways:

- cleaning
- drinking
- cooking
- quenching (fire)
- baking
- scouring
- bathing
- painting
- swimming
- sprinkling
- skating

SUBJECT

Water In Everyday Life
(cont'd)

CONCEPTS

All living things need water.

SIMPLE ACTIVITIES

Give it to. Plants, animals, birds, people.

Use the water experiment listed under *Air and Plants*.

Water expands when it freezes.

On a very cold day put two jars outside. Fill both with water. Put a lid on one. When the water in the covered bottle freezes, observe what it does.

Water gets into the air by evaporation.

Fill two measuring cups with water. Put a lid on one. Watch both cups daily to note the water line.

Some things hold more water than others.

Put water in a clear bowl. Watch the water line *before* and *after* you put in a stone. Do the same with a sponge, rubber, piece of cloth. See which absorbs the most water.

There is water in soil.

Put soil in a jar. Cover it tightly. Note drops of moisture that gather in the jar.

Water mixes with some things.

Experiment with different powders (salt, sugar, baking soda, instant coffee,) oil, syrup; note what happens.

Some things will float in water.

Try a piece of wood, a sponge, a stone, a feather, a plate.

SUBJECT

Other Growing Things

CONCEPTS

There are many kinds of growing things: plants, animals, people.

Growing things need food, water, air.

People and animals need growing things to live.

Growing things change as they grow older.

Growing things reproduce their own kind.

SIMPLE ACTIVITIES

Let children bring plants, pets (both animals and birds).

Recall your plant experiments; feed and water your pets and yourself!

See plant experiment pertaining to food. Have a breakfast party.

Make fruit salad. Bake bread. Make butter.

Feed your pets different kinds of food (plants, seeds, bugs, other animals).

Plant seeds, small plants, trees. Watch them grow. Observe growth changes in puppies, hamsters, etc.

Measure the children in the beginning and at the end of school. Compare.

To show children that living things have babies like themselves, hatch eggs, watch guppies, tadpoles, kittens being born.

Use experiments from study of plants.

Magnets

Magnets attract objects made of some metals.

Place a collection of items - nails, buttons, seeds, clips, baby pins, thumb tacks, pegs, crayons, wire - on a table. Let children see which ones the magnet attracts.

SUBJECT

Magnets (cont'd)

CONCEPTS

Magnets attract through some metals.

There are different kinds of magnets.

Magnets are useful to man.

SIMPLE ACTIVITIES

Put a piece of paper, a sheet of wood or plastic or a glass plate between the magnet and the objects listed above. See whether the magnet will still attract the items.

Provide a variety of magnets for children to see.

Find magnets in the room (on doors, bulletin boards, magnetic toys, games).

Heat

The sun gives heat.

Stand in the hot sun.

Feel the pavement in the heat of the sun.

Put a cold pan in the sun; let it stand 10 minutes. Then feel it.

Put chocolate candy in the sun.

Put a candle on a tray. Let it stand in the sun.

We can make heat.

Look at the school furnace.

Light a small fire (outdoors).

Rub your hands together briskly.

Light a candle.

Breathe into your hands.

SUBJECT	CONCEPTS	SIMPLE ACTIVITIES
Heat (cont'd)	Heat changes the form of some things.	Cook apples into sauce.
		Fry an egg.
		Put milk in heat; watch it curdle.
		Toast some bread.
		Bake a cake.
		Make bread.
	Heat dries things.	Put a wet cloth on the radiator or ventilator.
		Put a pan of mud in the sunlight.
		Put a piece of bread on the windowsill or radiator.
		Wash your hands; hold them under a drier.
	Heat is useful.	Discuss heat in the home for: ironing, cooking, heating, healing, sterilizing.
<u>Sounds</u>	Sounds are made by vibration.	Call, sing, whisper, shout, put hands on throat and feel neck.
		Strike a tuning fork. Put it in water. Watch!
		Pluck a stretched rubber band or a stringed instrument.
		Open piano; strike keys; watch the hammers.
		Beat a drum.
		Ring a bell.

SUBJECT

Sounds (cont'd)

CONCEPTS

SIMPLE ACTIVITIES

Place a yardstick on a table with half of it extending over the edge. Have the children strike the protruding edge. Observe the movement called *vibration*.

Sounds may be loud or soft, high or low, shrill or gentle.

Turn up the TV, radio or record player.

Sing loudly and softly.

Whisper, shout.

Stamp feet on floor rapidly, slowly.

Experiment with rhythm instruments.

Sounds are everywhere.

Listen to room sounds.

Tour the playground and identify sounds.

Walk around the block to discover street sounds.

Show filmstrip about sounds.

Weather

We have many kinds of weather.

Observe a sunny, cloudy, rainy, windy or snowy day.

Observe sky on each day.

Weather helps and harms us.

Discuss fog.

Take a walk after a light rain, a very heavy rain.

SUBJECT	CONCEPT	SIMPLE ACTIVITIES
Weather (cont'd)	Weather helps and harms us.	Watch a snow storm; discuss danger of driving as well as fun in the snow.
		Show filmstrips about storms; observe aftermath of a severe storm in the community.
		Discuss need for many kinds of weather.
	Weather affects what we do.	Show filmstrips of summer activities, winter activities.
		Discuss what children do on a sunny, rainy, or snowy day.
		Talk about how weather affects what mother and father do; (for example, mowing the lawn).

Machines

Machines make work easier for people.

Look at the use of simple machines (in the home):

A can opener, mixer, nut cracker, needle, knife and fork, scissors, clothesline, sweeper, curtain rod, iron, mop, broom, dustpan, toaster, washer, dryer.

A hammer, saw, shovel, rake, automobile jack, vise, screwdriver.

The stairway, car, ramp, doorknob, pencil sharpener, toothbrush, comb.

Some machines are used for fun.

Locate and demonstrate toy machines in the kindergarten: trains, doll carriages, wagons, wind up toys, trucks, seesaw, tricycles, rollerskates

SUBJECT	CONCEPTS	SIMPLE ACTIVITIES
Machines (cont'd)	Some machines give us comfort.	Use a rocking chair. Take an elevator or an escalator ride. On a hot day bring in an electric fan. Make ice cream with a hand or an electric freezer. Turn on a faucet to get water!
To assist the teacher the following classifications of simple machines are listed. Children should not be expected to remember them.		
<u>Lever</u>	<u>Pulley</u>	<u>Screw</u>
Claw-hammer	Flag Pole	Automobile Jack
Nut Cracker	Window Curtains	Paper Press
Can Opener	Clotheslines	Piano Stool
Shovel	Tow Trucks	Vise
Seesaw		
Crow-bar		
<u>Inclined Plane</u>	<u>Wheel and Axle</u>	<u>Wedge</u>
Stairway	Doorknob	Axe
Sloping boards	Roller skates	Needles
Hill	Pencil sharpener	Knives
Slide	Back wheel of a car	Chisel
Ramps	Bicycle	

SUBJECT	CONCEPTS	SIMPLE ACTIVITIES
<u>Pets</u>	Many animals make nice pets.	For short periods of time keep a variety of animals in the kindergarten--rabbits, mice, hamsters, gerbils, turtles, nonpoisonous snakes.
		Occasionally allow cats and dogs to visit.
		Keep an aquarium.
		Bring a lamb to school.
	Pets are alike and different.	Look at and discuss their similarities and differences.
		Take a walk to see pets that are not suitable for school.
	Pets are born and cared for in different ways.	Hatch eggs; raise chicks.
		Observe a mother cat and kittens.
		Try to see guppies being born.
		Watch a pony and its mother.
	Animals live in different places.	See films and filmstrips of pets and their owners.
		Take a walk to see dog houses, cages, pens, other houses for pets.
	Pets need the same things that children do.	Have a discussion about giving pets food, water, shelter, rest, affection.
		Talk about pets' needs for cleanliness and health care.

SUBJECT

Our Bodies

CONCEPTS

Our bodies are made up of many parts.

Our bodies need good care.

Many people help us to care for our bodies.

SIMPLE ACTIVITIES

Have children look at themselves and each other. Identify visible body parts.

Let children use a stethoscope to listen to their hearts.

Talk about and show pictures of the brain and lungs.

Show a film or filmstrip about good eating habits, exercise, rest.

Take daily exercise and rest.

Show children who are not clean how to care for themselves. (Have a health corner with a mirror, comb, brush, washcloth, etc.).

Have a good breakfast party to emphasize importance of proper diet.

Emphasize and practice frequent washing of hands.

Practice brushing of teeth.

Work in a dark room, then a light room. Discuss the difference.

Invite the doctor, dentist, nurse, dental hygienist, physical education supervisor to talk with the children. Visit their school headquarters.

Visit the cafeteria to see the food personnel at work.

SUBJECT	CONCEPTS	SIMPLE ACTIVITIES
Our Bodies (cont'd)	Many people help us to care for our bodies.	Watch the custodian scrub, clean, sweep the building.
	We can help to protect ourselves.	Walk through the neighborhood; observe the street cleaners, window washers.
		Have a <i>clean-up</i> brigade in the playground.
		Show filmstrips of playground safety.
		Emphasize and practice putting leftover food, apple cores, milk boxes, etc. in proper containers.

THE PHYSICAL PROGRAM IN THE KINDERGARTEN

Health, safety and physical experiences are an integral part of the total kindergarten program. It is impractical to separate them for each is interrelated and dependent upon one another. The kindergarten focuses on all three for the simple reason that a child's intellectual progress is in direct relation to the child's mental and physical well-being. Many times a child's health needs must be attended to before the child can be expected to adjust to other functions of school. Working cooperatively with the school nurse, physician, psychologist and any other health personnel, the teacher becomes the focal point in establishing a sense of well-being in kindergarten children.

With or without special needs, most 5-year-olds have an innate urge for movement and activity; they do everything with vigor and zest. This is the reason that the normal kindergarten is alive with energy. Because of this vitality, young children require two things--outlets for their energy plus rest and relaxation, a fact 5-year-olds rarely recognize on their own. It is the teacher who must understand and adapt to children's physical needs by providing alternating periods of quiet and vigorous activity.

It is also the function of the teacher to recognize when children need a change of pace and to facilitate daily experiences that promote relaxation. These may include:

- . group discussions
- . conversations
- . looking at pictures, charts and posters
- . snacks
- . resting on cots or mats
- . listening to a quiet story
- . viewing a relaxing filmstrip
- . looking at books alone or with a friend
- . listening to records
- . easy table activities
- . singing
- . simple games

Physical exercise is provided through a variety of play experiences and equipment that encourage the use of large body muscles and the development of fundamental motor skills:

.calisthenics
 .rhythmic activities
 .imitative or mimetic games
 .running, jumping, hopping, skipping, climbing
 .singing games
 .circle games
 .folk dancing
 .marching
 .isometric exercises
 .throwing, bouncing, lifting, carrying
 .using large muscle equipment

Stationary Equipment

Manipulative Equipment

.balance beam	.horizontal bars	.wagons
.steps	.sand box	.tricycles
.swings		.trucks
.jungle gyms		.hollow blocks
.punching bag		.jump rope
.merry-go-round		.balls
.monkey rings		.beanbags
.ladder bars		.barrels
.climbing rope		.kegs
.chin bars		.boxes
.slide		
.seesaw		

Where expensive equipment is not available nor economically feasible, or where the kindergarten desires a kind of playground that is different from the usual mode, the following ideas are worth trying:

1. Select a site that is naturally hilly and let the children run.
2. Bulldoze *mounds* for children to climb and run down.
3. Get an old boat for children to *role play*.
4. Provide an abandoned, small airplane, if one is available.
5. Place flat stones on the ground for *stepping stones*.
6. Cover a huge concrete pipe with dirt (or use it uncovered) as a *tunnel*.
7. Build stone steps into a hill for climbing.
8. Hollow out a huge sandbox on the play area.
9. Build a short log fence for climbing, crawling and balancing.
10. Put old-fashioned swings on trees.
11. Get plumber piping and make a tire swing.

On the playground or in the room play may be of free choice, a directed experience or a combination of both. In the free period children select their own activities using whatever materials and equipment the school and a resourceful teacher can provide. Much free play may also be role-play, dramatic play or imaginary play. The game of *Let's Pretend*, for example, has a never-ending fascination in the kindergarten.

Arranged or directed play may be used to:

1. Learn a new concept, game or activity.
2. Practice a fundamental motor skill.
3. Introduce a new piece of equipment.

The role of the teacher is to:

1. supervise and observe the children.
2. guide them in solving their problems.
3. offer assistance with projects.

4. provide new materials and activities when necessary.
5. encourage all children to participate in some activity.
6. sometimes join in the activities.
7. give instructions in safe use of equipment.
8. help children understand the importance of safety everywhere.
9. encourage fair play and consideration for others.
10. recognize that all children need fresh air, sunshine and exercise in cold weather as well as warm.
11. emphasize the need for wearing clothing suitable to the season and temperature.
12. show an interest in pupil progress.
13. give encouragement and praise for accomplishment.
14. help every child to achieve some measure of success and satisfaction.
15. stress participation and fun, not winning.

In choosing physical activities and calisthenics or in selecting and teaching games to kindergartners the teacher may find the following suggestions helpful:

1. Choose a play area that is safe, free from hazards and close to a sanitary facility.
2. Follow a planned seasonal program that parallels the growth cycles of children.
3. Choose activities and exercises that are beneficial to the majority of children.
4. Select adapted activities for the physically handicapped but let the entire class participate.
5. Pick games that are simple, loosely organized and have a minimum of rules.
6. Include all children in some way in every game.
7. Present only one new game at a time.
8. Divide a large group into two smaller circles.
9. Play a game sufficiently long for most children to understand the rules.

10. Let various children be *leaders* in calisthenics and assume responsibility in other suitable activities.
11. Encourage children to run a great deal; it is one of the most helpful of exercises.
12. Provide a balance of games, rhythms and drills.
13. Foster the development of social adjustment, self-discipline, courage, sportsmanship and leadership.
14. Help children to develop a spirit of fun.

Minimal indoor space may present a problem in planning exercise and activity. This, however, should not be an excuse for limiting physical experiences to only quiet ones. Space problems can be overcome in several ways:

1. Move furniture as needed.
2. Arrange the classroom so an area is permanently provided for vigorous activity.
3. Use an imaginary track around the sides of the room as a traffic area.
4. Divide the class into several small groups and let one engage in active pursuit while the others sing, clap, or keep time with rhythm instruments.
5. Reserve use of the gymnasium occasionally.
6. Use hallways for exercise.

Again - it's the TEACHER who:

1. Fosters activities that require movement.
2. Encourages the child's natural love of movement.
3. Judges progress by comparing the individual child's skill with what the child could do earlier in the year.
4. Makes no comparison between the children--Johnny and Jayne.
5. Builds confidence in attacking new activities.

The teacher also:

1. Stimulates new ideas.
2. Uses careful observations as a tool of progress.

3. Recognizes the differences in children's physical abilities.
4. Provides activities that develop functional movement (to do a job or task) and expressive movement (to express an idea or feeling).
5. Individualizes physical education so that children become more skillful in the management of their own bodies.

In Health and Safety the teacher emphasizes simple but important health routines:

1. Going to the bathroom when necessary, not at predetermined times.
2. Washing hands before eating and after toilet.
3. Brushing teeth regularly.
4. Using tissues or hankies when necessary.
5. Eating regular meals and suitable foods.
6. Developing good rest and sleeping habits.
7. Playing in the fresh air.
8. Having confidence in the school nurse, dentist, doctor.
9. Wearing clothes suitable to the weather.

The teacher stresses safety procedures that protect the children in school:

1. Using scissors and tools with care.
2. Putting toys and equipment away safely.
3. Following fire drill regulations exactly.
4. Wearing proper shoes in the gymnasium.
5. Watching out for other people in the halls, on buses, on the playground.
6. Playing in areas assigned to the group.

SUGGESTED PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES FOR KINDERGARTEN

Games of Low Organization

Tag-Type Games

A-Tisket, A-Tasket
Back-to-Back
Brownies and Fairies
Bull in the Ring
Caged Tiger
Charley Over the Water
Crossing the Brook
Duck, Duck, Gray Duck
Floor Tag
Flowers and Wind
Fox and Geese
Garden Scamp
Good Morning
Hound and Rabbit
I Say Stoop
Partner Tag
Run, Rabbit, Run
Squat Tag
Squirrels in Trees
Spider and Flies

Classroom Games

Cat and Mice
Changing Seats
Do This, Do That
Dog and Bone
Hide in Sight
Moving Day
Beanbag-passing Relays
Mouse Trap
Round and Round the
 Little Ball Goes
Red Light
I'm Hiding
I See Something Red
May I? (Giant Steps)
Billy, Show Us What To Do
Simple Simon Says
Button, Button
Bluebird, Bluebird
Let Your Feet Tramp, Tramp
Jim Along, Josie
Follow the Leader,
 Do What I Do
Mulberry Bush

Ball Games

Ball Pass
Ball-bouncing
Bat Ball
Beanbag Passing
Center Ball
Chase Ball
Circle Beanbag Toss
Simple Dodge Ball
Sky-high Ball

Simple Relays

Forward Run
Backward Run
Skip and Run
One-leg Hop
Doggie Run
Duck Waddle
Automobile Relay
Train

Sidewalk Games

Hopscotch
Square Hopscotch
Snail Hopscotch
Ladder Hopscotch
Long-rope Jumping
Short-rope Jumping
Rollerskating

Gymnastic-Type and Self-Testing Activities

Mimetics

Airplanes
Animal Imitations
Bees
Bell-ringing
Bicycling
Building a Stone Wall
Butterfly
Climbing Ladders
Dolls and Toys

Story Plays

A Day in the Country
A Walk in the Woods
Bear Hunt
Building a House
Christmas Trees
The Circus
Cupid at Valentine
Firemen, Policemen

Stunts and Tumbling

Duck Walk
Crab Walk
Dog Run
Indian Wrestling
Kangaroo Hop
Leap Frog
Rabbit Hop
Tip Up)
Log Roll) on mats

Mimetics

Elevator
Ferryboats
Follow the Leader
Hammering, Sewing
Seesaw
Skating
Swimming
Teddy Bears
Statues
Washing Machine

Story Plays

Halloween
Getting Ready for Winter
Growing Flowers
Raking Leaves
Moving Day
Planting a Garden
Postman
Santa's Elves
Sleeping Princess
Snow White

Stunts and Tumbling

Forward Roll) or grass
Measuring Worm
Wring the Dish Rag

Exercises

(count 8 on each of these)

Balance on one foot; other foot.
Balance on toes; jump on toes.
Put arms out to side; swing arms
in backward circles.
Stand on toes - stretch.
Hold arms straight forward;
swing them from side to side.
Put legs apart, hands on hips,
sway from side to side.
Wiggle all over.

Bend from waist; stretch arm,
and swim.
Put feet apart; touch one toe
with the opposite hand.
Pick cherries in time to
music; put them in imaginary
bucket.
Pick up apples, stoop, straighten.
Pump another child's hands.

Activities Using Apparatus

Climb, Sit, Hang, Turn on Jungle Gym or Horizontal Bars.
Climb Ropes, Poles, Ladders.
Chin the Bar; Skin the Cat.
Walk the Length of the Balance Beam in Many Different Ways.
Swing Off a Horizontal Bar.

Rhythmic Activities

Free Rhythms and Interpretations
Camel, Elephant, Lion, Pussy Cat
Clowns, Goblins, Elves
Clocks, Watches, Jack-in-the-box
Teddy Bears
Bees
Butterflies
Flowers Swaying
Snow Flakes
The Wind
Leaves Fluttering
Trees Swaying

Nursery Rhymes
Hickory Dickory Dock
Humpty Dumpty
Jack and Jill
Jack Be Nimble
Little Miss Muffet
Old King Cole
Queen of Hearts
Ride a Cock Horse
Sing a Song of Sixpence

Singing Games and Folk Dances

A Hunting We Will Go	London Bridge
Bluebirds	Did You Ever See A (Snowman, Goblin, etc.)
Can You Dance, Maloney?	I Like a Big Parade
Carrousel	Looby Loo
Clap, Clap, Bow	Muffin Man
Clap Your Hands and 1-2-3	Merry-Go-Round
Dance of Greeting	Oats, Peas, Beans
Did You Ever See A Lassie?	Red Light
Farmer in the Dell	Roman Soldiers
Giddy Up, I'm A Cowboy	Rover, Red Rover
How D'Ye Do My Partner	Round and Round the Village
I'm Very Very Tall	Sally Go Round
Jolly is the Miller	Swing Song
Jump Jim Joe	Thread Follows the Needle
Lazy Mary	Yankee Doodle

FINE ARTS IN THE KINDERGARTEN

It is generally agreed that any worthwhile and stimulating program of study includes experiences that enrich children's learning. This is as true in the kindergarten as in any other area. Educators of today are basically agreed that mere factual learnings are about as useful as gardens without fertilizer and are realizing increasingly the need for greater emphasis upon the fine arts. No longer peripheral subjects, they are now an integral part of the total program.

In any curriculum one usually thinks of the fine arts only in terms of music and art. They are, of course, an integral part of every phase of the school day and therefore, the major consideration. There are, however, elements of the fine arts in such things as drama, dramatic play, literature, and poetry. To be completely technical, one would have to include the sciences, too, for the study of life and the world in general is a thorough lesson in composition, form, design, color, shape and relationship.

Emphasis on all the arts is important inasmuch as they contribute to the child's total growth in many ways. They help children:

1. Build insights and concepts about their world through experimentation, examination, exploration, expression, evaluation.
2. Enjoy the beautiful in life.
3. Make more satisfying use of time.
4. Release energies in constructive ways.
5. Express those feelings that need expression of some kind.
6. Think more imaginatively and creatively.
7. Appreciate other people and their contributions to life.
8. Become more resourceful.
9. Develop self-discipline.
10. Escape from regimentation into more original channels.

A particularly important reason for an emphasis upon fine arts in the kindergarten is that children tend to apply these qualities to any work they do. In later life, for example, the attributes that help a child to become a creative painter, writer or musician also can make the child an equally productive scientist. Certainly it is true that children who are exposed to and participate in the fine arts, find new ways to work, play and live. Mauree Applegate realizes

the importance of this when she begs, *"Let's get rid of the deadly dullness of our American classrooms where too many teachers are teaching only by the prompting of a manual or by the use of the packaged educational-mix. Let's stretch our creative thinking so that all the children who are still bumping their heads on the ceilings of classrooms may be helped to find the sky."*¹

What can be done to open the way to that sky? Although it would seem that there is no limit to what is expected of the classroom teacher, there are several things to consider:

- Few children choose the same fine art as a creative activity. Some want to dance, some paint, some draw, some create with words, some enjoy quiet rhythms, some sing, others hum and some may just listen.
- For personal satisfaction, the part of listening, watching and appreciating is a vital one since most children and adults remain at a very simple level as performers.
- Any experience in the fine arts must be a personal instrument through which children can dance in their own way, paint the way they want, sing the songs they like to sing, listen to the music they want to hear, say what they have to say in the way they want to say it.
- Fine arts help children to make good use of their time in a spirit of joy and contentment, in a mood of relaxation yet fascination.
- Fine arts are important for their therapeutic values. Children with a variety of problems or negative behaviors tend to relax and to lose some of their anxieties as they work with art materials, listen to music, react to rhythm, *talk out* their feelings.

Begin With Music

Music is the one fine art that has a direct line to the soul and spirit. The angry or frustrated child unconsciously stamps out a warlike rhythm, pounding with feet, fists, and occasionally, head! A happy, excited youngster bounces and skips, twirls and twists in a merry outburst of joy. The pensive, perhaps apprehensive child retreats to a corner and finds solace in gentle humming or in humming to a teddy bear. Virginia Austin aptly says, *"In a child's world, music doesn't walk alone. It is always accompanied by dolls, bears, cowboys, Indians, snowflakes, spaceships, butterflies, dragons, and monsters! Music, you see, is one of the best fields for a child to learn from his or her own experience. It is not an experience which is always directed at or planned for him or her nor an experience that demands the help of others but one that can be carried out by himself or herself for his or her own particular enjoyment."*²

¹Mauree Applegate - *Everybody's Business - Our Children*, New York. Row, Peterson and Company, 1952.

²Virginia Austin - *"I Am My Own Instrument"*, *Creativity in the Elementary*

School, Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1959, pp 53-61

Satis Coleman, long an authority on children and their musical tastes, declares that every child has a need for music:

- as a tension release for cultural pleasure.
- for cultural pleasure.
- for the development of his or her esthetic sense.
- for a health-giving interest.
- as an escape measure—a means of getting away from himself or herself and others.
- as an emotional outlet.
- as a means to voice those feelings that demand expression of some kind.
- for the social contacts which music making or music appreciation will bring him or her.
- for the self-discipline it requires if the child wishes to really develop his or her native talents."¹

Every child has an innate seeking attitude, a sort of reaching-out-for experience, a drive toward further discovery, greater skills, more knowledge and appreciations. If talent is free, allowed to express itself with no entangling conflicts, it is the greatest natural builder of the ever-seeking attitude. This attitude can be gratified in two ways:

1. Lead the child with genuine talent through the rigors of training and overt discipline as well as self-discipline. (This is the stimulus really gifted children need to fulfill their ability)
2. Give children with no particular gift opportunity to express and sometimes share their own interpretation of music through creative rhythm, song, dance or instruments. (This is their avenue of personal enrichment)

To do this, experts agree that the school must provide a quite varied program of music.

Natalie Cole says:

"No two children should be expected to use the same outlet for emotional release. Some may wish to dance, some may profit from quiet rhythms, some may sing, others hum, and some may just listen."²

¹Satis Coleman - *Creative Music for Children*, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1922.

²Natalie Cole - *The Arts in the Classroom*, New York, The John Day Co., 1940.

Doris Champlain remarks: "Of all the phases of music education the art of listening is the most important. Because most of us remain at a simple level as performers, we must continue to listen to many kinds of music for personal satisfaction.¹

Hughes Langston writes: "Let us remember that music comes to the child as easily as breathing—if we let the child be his or her own instrument, dancing in his or her own way, singing the songs he or she likes to sing, listening to the music he or she wants to hear."²

The kindergarten is an excellent place to begin the development of musical taste and the stimulation of an ever-growing appreciation of music. The kindergarten teacher can make music come alive in the classroom if these practical suggestions are followed:

1. Let every child, regardless of his or her ability, participate in the music program for it is not the purpose of the school to make musicians but to make children music-conscious.
2. Give children opportunities to demonstrate their own musical reactions in whatever way they choose.
3. Provide a varied background of music for listening to help develop discriminating tastes.
4. Use singing less frequently in a specific period and more often as a spontaneous release from work.
5. Try instruments to curb the restlessness of a rainy day or for any other tension release.
6. Use records for accompaniment to many things; one experience often leads to other ideas.
7. Remember that as a teacher you do not have to be a musician; all you need is a sensitivity to music, an appreciative spirit, an enthusiasm that is *catching*, a heart that *sings its own melody because of the beauty it has within it*.³
8. Take heart if you can't play the piano; try an autoharp, bells, small marimba, glockenspiel, or a guitar, banjo, ukelele. Today any instrument is acceptable and the greater the variety, the better.
9. Remember that little children enjoy that musical experience which has most reality with them—their own voice and body.

¹Doris Champlain - *Music For Children*, New York, Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1958

²Hughes Langston - *The First Book of Rhythms*, New York, Franklin Watts, Inc., 1954

³Miriam Wilt - *Creativity in the Elementary School*, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1959

For additional free material on Music, send for:

Music and the Young Child
Kindergarten and Preschool Services
Box 911
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126

Continue With Art

In art there is perhaps more opportunity for true creativity than in any other area of the fine arts. In the light of shorter working days and the resulting greater amount of leisure time, art in many forms has taken its place in the sun as the foremost means of self-expression. Today, almost everybody paints or potters, molds or mixes, builds or beautifies. As Winifred Bain observes, *"The old days of sit-by-the-fire-and-spin are fast returning. People everywhere are suddenly aware of the fact that if their lives are to remain fascinating and free from boredom, they will have to discover their own inner resources and latent talents to fill the long nonworking hours that science and population burst have thrust upon us."*¹ This, perhaps, is a prime reason for the increasing emphasis on art education in today's schools. Certainly if we are to develop adults of tomorrow who will be able to fill their time in a spirit of joy and contentment, in a mood of relaxation yet fascination, we must begin with children of today.

Art education in the kindergarten serves the child in many ways:

- It provides a means for the child to express ideas, feelings and emotions.
- It aids children in developing confidence in their abilities.
- It introduces them to the wide world of art media and the possibilities for personal satisfaction.
- It helps children to recognize how art beautifies their home and community and improves living in general
 - in dress, decorations, furnishings, buildings, bridges, modes of transportation, etc.
- It fosters appreciation of nature's beauty
 - in trees, flowers, birds, stars, clouds, storms, forests, gardens, etc.
- It alerts a child to the creative use of geometric figures, forms, designs as they occur and reappear in art.

Many authorities agree, also, that art has therapeutic values similar to those of music. Whether cross, tired, antagonistic, aggressive, fearful, children as they work with art materials, seem to lose some of their hostilities. Just how painting or modeling in clay or making mud-pies affords tension release no one knows but

¹-----
Winifred Bain - *Let's Look At Leisure*, Childhood Education, ACEI, April, 1959, pp. 343-344

it is apparent that the child who is *tied up in knots* finds relaxation and absorption in free use of such media. In view of all this, what is the place of the teacher in the kindergarten?

Since there are insufficient specialists in the field of art, as in nearly all others, it again remains for the classroom instructor to become more familiar with philosophies of art, art media, and methods of teaching art. Perhaps most important of all, the teacher needs to encourage art as a way of life since this is the one area where a child, and someday the adult, can say, *This is mine. I have done it!*

Edward Mattil makes the following practical suggestions for encouraging art in daily activities:¹

"Provide an environment that includes materials and tools, a place to work, and encouragement that stimulates the child to try out his or her potential; this may be only a corner of the room to which a child may retreat when he or she has or needs moments of free time.

"Give every child opportunity to explore his or her abilities through a wide variety of materials, media, and experiences.

"Allow time for the child to try any new found talents over and over again until he or she becomes the master of them; this means scheduling regular time periods for creative activities plus unscheduled periods, and putting a long-term program at his or her disposal.

"Be an interested teacher who praises and encourages children with no particular aptitudes.

"Be an observant teacher who identifies special abilities at an early age and encourages their growth.

"Be a wise teacher who recognizes and accepts the fact that children progress through regular stages of artistic development and that those stages develop automatically when the child is ready for them; this definitely rules out uniformity of performance.

"Be a teacher who sows the seeds of interest for without interest there will be no productivity.

"Provide a background of experience to stimulate inventiveness in children since a work of art is not the representation of an object itself; it is the representation of the experience which the child has had with that particular object."

Let children see and/or touch:

- copies of masterpieces.

¹Edward Mattil - *Children and the Arts*, Childhood Education ACEI, February 1964, pp. 286-291

- ancient art, medieval art, renaissance art, modern art.
- the bizarre, the beautiful, the realistic, the surrealistic.
- films about art and artists.
- flat materials as well as crafts, artifacts, pottery, jewelry, cloth, brass, copper, iron, glass, wood products and other *touchable* objects.

Take trips to:

- local art shows.
- old homes and historical societies.
- craft fairs.
- industrial exhibits.
- industries to see how management makes places attractive both indoors and outdoors.
- Walk through fields and parks.
- Search the community for people with particular talents that understand children well enough to demonstrate or share their knowledge with them.
- It should be remembered that the frequent use of all possible resources raises production above mediocrity and yields the rich results in child growth that should be the outcome of any creative experience.

Don't Forget Dramatic Play

Dramatic play (on an elementary level it can scarcely be called *drama*) is a natural outlet for children. It is, as Esther B. Starks of the College of Education, Ohio University, says, *"the unrehearsed, spontaneous re-enacting of some experience—real or imaginary—in which a child may be a cat, a baby, a train, a mother, a fire fighter, an astronaut, an Indian, a jet-pilot. Although such play may seem a nuisance to parents at home or a hindrance to the teacher whose curriculum does not provide for wild horses on the day that Tom or Jane wants to be one, it does emphasize many important things about the child—his or her social adjustment, emotional development, interests, informal background, values and general concepts."*¹

*"True dramatic play is creative, original, and impromptu. Through this play, children give voice to and enact their feelings, wishes, and understandings. They learn about and gain security and confidence in their world."*¹

¹Esther B. Starks - *Dramatic Play*, *Childhood Education*, ACEI, December 1960

Harriet Johnson says, "Dramatic play is the child's way of organizing experience. Through it he or she arranges facts and observations into a sequence meaningful to him or her. Often through dramatic play children come to the realization that more facts are needed and with more mature desire for perfection, they formalize the experiences into creative dramatic performance which is far beyond the realm of the initial informal dramatic play."¹

Dramatic play in the kindergarten serves many purposes:

- It reflects children's attitudes.
- It gives wholesome or unwholesome release to emotions (if the latter, the teacher must do some clarification of values with the child).
- It is a means of expression both with and without words.
- It encourages social contacts and child relationships.
- It develops language skills; expression of ideas.
- It provides a vent for the purely imaginative, the fantastic, the delightfully individualistic rearrangement of everyday occurrences (even breakfast can be a wonderful mixture of peanut butter ice cream and chocolate pie with no harm to anyone!)
- It is a channel whose quality may be spurred or enriched by adults but not interfered with nor changed unless the play is beyond the confines of acceptable behavior.
- It is the little child's work; it is the older child's avenue to interpretations, thought, and action.
- To adults, dramatic play is the key for guiding children into the balanced, mature personalities every parent and teacher seeks to develop.

Poetry, Too, Is Everywhere

Putting words into poetic form is that exquisite fine art skill which few of us dare to claim yet unwittingly experience in every walk of life. Dr. Miriam Wilt writes, "Words are the colors on my palette" and "Poetry is everywhere but our ears are not tuned in."² Leland B. Jacobs comments, "Poetic words are a way of turning the mundane, ordinary or menial into something illuminating.

¹Harriet Johnson - *School Begins At Two*, New Republic, Inc., 1936, p. 110

²Miriam Wilt - *More Than Words*, Childhood Education, ACEI, December 1960

engrossing, and extraordinary. It is a meeting of the spirit and words to form something fit and reasonable and beautiful about life. It is a highway to divorcing oneself from realities and moving into the very real life of the imagination. It is abstraction yet experience; it is reality yet fiction; it is adventure, yet seriousness; it is mystery, nonsense, fancy, wonder. It is moods of nature, moments of love, walking with kings, talking with animals. It is journeys into the past and space flights into the future. It is magic and make-believe, hopes and dreams, foibles and fancies. To the child it is a questing, a seeking in growing and growing up; to the old, it is a return to battles fought or lost, to a final victory yet to come. Sensitive, critical, perceptive, appreciative, these are the poetic heart be he or she eight or eighty."¹

Children, perhaps express themselves more uniquely than anyone. To them the world is ever new and life is full of zest and wonder. Their world is one of "autumn leaves tumbling like colored socks in the washer," "soaked lima beans that look like old, shriveled frogs," "Christmas that shines in people's eyes and smiles." Their world is one that describes a painting: "It's black: I'm always hungry and that's how hungry looks." Their world is one that says, "I don't like our story. I want to say it my way—"

The bird that was

Isn't in the bush

Because - - -

The bug that was

Isn't in the bush

Because - - -

The child ate it!

Ingenuity of thought and originality of expression is seldom achieved by assigning, "Now we are going to write a poem." It is rather, the miraculous reward of listening at all times to children at play, children at work, children thinking aloud, children conversing with their friends and of keeping a written account of all the unusual expressions, the unique ways of saying things that occur everyday of every year. It is the reward of talking WITH rather than AT boys and girls and of accepting their ideas with gratitude and respect.

The Teacher Is The Key

Let it be emphasized once more that the fine arts are the leaven that elevates any subject above the mundane. They are a heritage not to be denied America's children. It is to be hoped that these

¹ Leland B. Jacobs - *More Than Words*, Childhood Education, ACEI, December 1960

subjects will be approached with care and presented with discretion for productivity in them depends largely upon the careful analysis of each child and the child's particular needs. In the search for rewarding experiences within the fine arts, teachers may well follow the suggestions of E. Paul Torrance¹ who writes:

- Accept ALL offerings of the child; to the child they have importance.
- Accept the child; unloved or lonely, no child will do anything creative or expressive fully and freely.
- Bear in mind that the highly creative child is often disturbing to the class; the child is a nonconformist not only in thinking and production but also in behavior.
- Value the finished product not for its excellence or lack of it but for the thought and effort that went into its creation; it may very well be the child's best efforts.
- Value creative thinking and acting in any form and develop a tolerance for new ideas.
- Make children sensitive to the world about them.
- Encourage manipulation of objects and ideas.
- Beware of forcing a set pattern of doing things.
- Work for a creative classroom atmosphere.
- Teach children to evaluate their own creative offerings and to be tolerant of others and their efforts.
- Create necessities for creative thinking.
- Provide for active and quiet periods - moments for reflection other than for assigned material.
- Make resources available for working out ideas.
- Develop constructive criticism - not just criticism.
- Teach only enough skills to stimulate more activity.
- Develop an adventuresome spirit within yourself as a teacher and appreciate the same in your pupils.

What About Truly Creative Children?

A sound philosophy of creativity may open doors to its possibilities but it is the classroom teacher who must recognize what comes through those doors! Careful observation is necessary to

¹E. Paul Torrance - *Guiding Creative Talent*, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, Prentice-Hall, 1962.

identify children with unusual talent since highly creative boys and girls are not always easily identifiable.

- They often perform at less than top academic levels.
- They may be reluctant to complete routine, monotonous tasks.
- Their behaviors may be somewhat difficult to keep *in bounds*.

To the observant teacher, most children have some creative ability but not in equal quantity nor in the same areas. Truly creative children have quite special attributes that usually add distinctive charm to otherwise mundane classrooms:

1. Fearlessness to try what is new (Let me do it!).
2. Willingness to put things together whether it is puzzles or ideas (I know how!).
3. Ability to see relationships (It's like this - - -).
4. The art of self-discipline (I'm trying my best!).
5. Creative selectivity (I like that idea!).
6. A self-initiated learning (I wonder why - - -).
7. Great emotional and physical drive (I want to do it my way!).

In the classroom, child and teacher can share creativity in many ways. As an adventuresome spirited duo, they can *look for* and *work for* creativity in many avenues:

1. In speech, using the imaginative, the sprightly, the unusual, the new for the old.
2. In dramatic play, capitalizing on elements of surprise, fun, confidence, security.
3. In problem solving, working for ideas and logical thinking.
4. In fine arts, showing unusual interpretations of music, art, poetry, dance, drama.
5. In conversations, keeping a keen ear attuned to language gems that occur spontaneously on the playground, during a walk, after a field trip, while at play, anywhere.
6. In action, deciding on a task and completing it effectively (the highest form of creative achievement).

7. In attitudes, influencing behaviors by positive outlooks (knowing that proper attitudes foster proper behaviors).
8. In ideas, tossing about possibilities, imaginative improvements and making sensible choices.
9. In evaluation, judging wise use of materials, time and talents.
10. In traditional subject areas, finding creative approaches to language, literature, numbers, science, social studies, health, physical education and safety.

The young child brings much to the classroom. It remains for the teacher to discover what each child brings, to keep alive the tendency to question and to help the child find the kinds of answers that breed more questions.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

LOOKING BACK

5

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE



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TAKING A LAST LOOK

How to evaluate progress in the kindergarten is somewhat difficult since success in school is usually measured only in terms of intellectual growth and maturity and tends to overlook social and emotional growth. There are, however, certain identifiable characteristics that are indications of improvement and do serve as criteria of a young child's progress.

Children who have had a year of *good living*, a year of success in the kindergarten, will do the following:

- Pursue interests in greater depth and breadth than they did when they arrived.
- Exhibit interests that were lacking when they first came to the classroom.
- Manifest improved work-study habits in all things.
- Think more logically and understand how many things are done.
- Use vocabulary adequate for satisfactory communication.
- Apply mathematics and science information in simple ways.
- Follow through in scientific thinking at their own level of ability.
- Give evidence of new concepts, expanded old ones and corrected wrong concepts.
- Enjoy many types of media and use them reasonably well.
- Show an interest in books.
- Understand that the printed word has something to tell them.
- Continue to seek answers to a natural curiosity.
- Be conscious of many things in their own environment.

The child will also:

- Be a happy child, eager for further experiences.
- Make constructive use of time; work independently.
- Demonstrate the initial stages of self-discipline.

- Assume a share of responsibility.
- Get along fairly well with classmates.
- Take pride in work.

PROFESSIONAL FILMS

Many films are available today for professional use at in-service institutes, faculty meetings, parent-teacher meetings and educational seminars. The following list has been selected as pertinent to the area of young children.

Churchill Films, 662 N. Robertson, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069

Film on Project Head Start

Setting the Stage for Creative Learning

Guiding Children's Behavior (open-end incidents)

Communication through Literature, Art and Body Movement

International Film Bureau, Inc., 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604

Tears of Children

Pathways Through Nursery School

Modern Talking Pictures Services, 2009 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17105

Adapting the Curriculum to the Child

Vassar College Nursery School

A Pre-Kindergarten Program - Visit to New Haven

Los Nietos Kindergarten

My Own Yard to Play In

4 and 5 Year Olds in School (Part II of "A Long Time to Grow")

Little World (program in a Day Care Center)

A Chance at the Beginning (Preschool program for N.Y. children)

Teacher's Aides: A New Opportunity

National Education Association, Washington, D.C. or PSEA, 400 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17105

Time of Their Lives

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa., 16802

A Day in the Life of a Five-Year Old

Fears of Children

Finger-Painting

Frustrating Fours and Fascinating Fives

Starting Nursery School

Long Film-Slide Service, 750 S. Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, Calif.
94530

The World is So Full of a Number of Things (filmstrip)
(Science)

A Good Day in the Kindergarten (filmstrip)

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 1901 First Ave., New York
City, N.Y. 10029

If These Were Your Children (clues to emotional problems)

N.Y. University Film Library, 20-26 Washington Place, New York
City, N.Y. 10003

This is Robert, Parts I and II (development of an aggressive
child from Nursery School to first grade)

Understanding Children's Play

McGraw Hill, 330 W. 42 St., New York City, N.Y. 10036

Social Development

Frustrating Fours and Fascinating Fives

Children's Emotions

Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Educational Corp., 425 N. Michigan
Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611

Answering the Children's 'Why'

Helping the Child to Accept the Do's

Coronet Instructional Materials, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill.
60601

Story Telling: Can you Tell it in Order?

Numbers for Children

Let's Measure: Inches, Feet, and Yards

Discovery in Science

Finger Painting Methods

Let's Draw With Crayons

American Crayon Company, 1706 Hayes Ave., Sandusky, Ohio
44870

The Purple Turtle (creative art)

Education Film Sales, University of California Extension, Los
Angeles, Calif. 90069

Dance Your Own Way

Atlantic Productions, Inc., Thousand Oaks, Calif. 91360

Nursery School (filmstrip)

Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich. 48209

Kindergarten and Your Child

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Box 911, Harrisburg, Pa.
17126

Program Models for Early Childhood Education

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Ward, Evangeline H. *Early Childhood Education*. Danville, New York 14437: F. A. Owen Publishing Company, 1968.

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National Association for the Education of Young Children. 1629 21st St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

National Education Association, Department of Elementary-Kindergarten-Nursery Education, Washington, D.C. 20009.

State Departments of Education. (At least 33 states now have kindergarten or K-3, K-6 or K-12 guides).

U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, U. S. Office of Education, Children's Bureau, Washington, D.C. 20202.

Universities and Colleges Offering Courses in Early Childhood Education.

Two filmstrips entitled "*Freedom to Do*" have been prepared to accompany the Guide. They are available upon request to:

Department of Education
Bureau of Curriculum Services
Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
Box 911
Harrisburg, Pa. 17126

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING A GOOD KINDERGARTEN

Please check the items as follows:

Check column 3 if you consider the item an excellent aspect of your program.

Check column 2 if you would consider the item as average.

Check column 1 if you consider this item is in need of improvement.

The Children:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Are constructively active. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2. Have opportunity to devise and to implement daily plans. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3. Are recognized for their contributions, however small. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4. Are encouraged to exercise individual initiative and development of personal talents. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5. Are willing to assume a share in group responsibility. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6. Are exposed to a wide range of opportunities for individual choice. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7. Are helped to develop a wholesome self-image. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 8. Are expected to display expanding self-control and self-discipline. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 9. Show evidence of intellectual stimulation and development. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10. Have opportunity for daily sensory use. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 11. Are encouraged to discuss and express ideas. (They are <i>seen and heard</i>). | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 12. Are provided for in terms of their own rate of development. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 13. Are the core of the program (as opposed to a content-oriented schedule). | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

The Room:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Has an optimum enrollment of 24. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2. Provides a minimum room space of 35 square feet per child. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3. Has adequate bathroom facilities proportioned to the child's size. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4. Is well-lighted and ventilated. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

5. Has furniture adjusted to the sizes of the children.
6. Has individual lockers for children's materials.
7. Has adequate cloakroom facilities.
8. Has storage space for large and small equipment.
9. Has a teacher's closet and workroom.
10. Has a drinking fountain and sink.
11. Has adequate display space.
12. Provides or has access to audio-visual equipment.

The Administration:

1. Includes the kindergarten in a total school program of organization.
2. Views the kindergarten as the first step in a continuum of learning.
3. Believes the kindergarten teacher is just as important as any other member of the faculty.
4. Includes the kindergarten children in school functions whenever feasible.
5. Visits the kindergarten to understand and evaluate its program.
6. Permits the teacher to select classroom materials.
7. Consults with the teacher on matters involving kindergarten.
8. Helps develop good home-school relationships.

The Teacher And Classroom Management:

1. Follows a philosophy that is consistent with child development and growth.
2. Surrounds the children with IDEAS, not just things.
3. Employs a positive approach to children, recognizing that small successes foster greater ones.
4. Recognizes and provides for individual needs and interests.
5. Maintains an atmosphere of disciplined freedom in which there is ample opportunity for individual choice but sufficient discipline to maintain reasonable control.

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| 6. Uses kindness but firmness in terms of setting limits. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 7. Encourages self-control and self-discipline. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 8. Judges children individually in terms of their maturity and background of experience. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 9. Views behaviors in the light of child development and growth; maintains a perceptive eye toward children that may need special guidance or emotional help. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 10. Makes children <i>stretch</i> in terms of vocabulary and understanding. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 11. Develops a feeling of trust between the children and teacher. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 12. Regards children as friends and appreciates them for what they are; recognizes and values the sensitivity of human personality. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 13. Keeps frequent communication with parents. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 14. Helps children to <i>help themselves</i> in work and play. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
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| 15. Makes wise use of resource people and aides. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
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| 16. Provides some freedom of decision, some time to follow explicit directions. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 17. Realizes that each child has own time-table of development and acts accordingly. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 18. Is seen but seldom heard. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
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The Program:

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Recognizes and attempts to meet the individual needs of the child - socially, mentally, emotionally and physically. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 2. Provides equal opportunity for all children to develop communication skills through: | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| Discussions. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| Conversations. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| Telling stories. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| Relating news. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| Making announcements. | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| Giving reports (i.e., Show and Tell). | <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | | |
| | | | | |

	Dramatizing.	☐	☐	☐
	Role-playing.	☐	☐	☐
	Choral speaking.	☐	☐	☐
3.	Encourages creative activity and freedom of expression in many media:	☐	☐	☐
	Art.	☐	☐	☐
	Crafts.	☐	☐	☐
	Music.	☐	☐	☐
	Rhythms.	☐	☐	☐
	Dance.	☐	☐	☐
	Individual play.	☐	☐	☐
	Group play.	☐	☐	☐
	Language experiences.	☐	☐	☐
	Science experiences.	☐	☐	☐
4.	Maintains a regular but flexible schedule subject to change at the discretion of the teacher.	☐	☐	☐
5.	Fosters a sense of responsibility to self and to the group.	☐	☐	☐
6.	Provides for the daily and the continuing physical needs of the child.	☐	☐	☐
7.	Is conducive to wholesome group living.	☐	☐	☐
8.	Provides supervised outdoor activity.	☐	☐	☐

Alternate Schedules In the Kindergarten

With the current emphasis on open education, many teachers are asking, *How do I reorganize without depriving my children of something?*

No one needs to omit anything from the total program. If anything, open education is more inclusive. It may necessitate some selectivity but keep in mind that the kindergarten program is not expected to follow a rigid daily schedule. Some activities may occur three times weekly, others only once a week.

Careful judgment of what is really valuable for children and how often it is necessary will determine what you do and when you do it.

To assist you in planning for a more effective day, we present the following choices of schedules. Why not compare them with your current kindergarten day and make any changes you find useful?

SCHEDULE FOR EVEN ARRIVAL (Children who arrive by bus):

1. Have large group session that includes:
 - Welcome, conversation
 - News
 - Special sharing
 - Weather report
 - Singing
 - Fingerplays
 - Poetry
 - Input of any special nature (science, math, unit of interest)
 - Planning for learning center activities
2. Move to learning centers for 45-minutes. (Let children go to bathroom during this period any time they wish.)
3. Snack
4. Outdoor play
5. Relaxation period
6. Large group activities-be selective. Suggested activities:

-Story	-Filmstrips
-Rhythm Band	-Demonstrations
-Marching	-Appreciation Time
-Sensory-motor Development	-sing-along
-Science Experiments	-folk dances
-Social Learnings	-circle games
-Walking Tours	-records
-Films	-Creative Dramatics
-Sensory Activities	-Art Specialties
7. Free play
(This is just as valuable at the end of the day as in the beginning and may prove even more beneficial at this time.)

In the learning center time you will provide any skill, need or interest activity that individuals or small groups of children should have. This is the major period of the day for meeting individual differences in every way.

SCHEDULES FOR STAGGERED ARRIVAL OF CHILDREN

Choice One

1. Have centers arranged. As children arrive, let them choose activities freely or with teacher approval. Learning center activity should be no less than 45-minutes.
2. After learning center activity, have large group session that includes:
 - Welcome, conversation
 - News
 - Special sharing
 - Weather report
 - Singing
 - Fingerplays
 - Poetry
 - Input of any special nature
(Be selective choosing from such areas as a concept story read on a continued basis, a new math concept, a science experiment or a social study.)
3. Bathroom and Snack
4. Outdoor Play
5. Relaxation Time
6. Choose from these large group activities:

-Story for Fun	-Demonstrations
-Rhythm Band	-Appreciation Time
-Marching	-sing-along
-Sensory-motor Development	-folk dances
-Walking Tours	-circle games
-Films	-records
-Filmstrips	-Creative Dramatics
-Art Specialties	-Sensory Activities
7. Free Play, if desired

Choice Two

1. Begin with at least 30-minutes of FREE PLAY.
(Let children use any of the larger materials such as blocks, water table, easels, tools and workbench, domestic center equipment, record player, audio-visuals, etc.)
2. After the play period, have large group session that includes:
 - Welcome, conversation
 - News

- Special sharing
 - Weather report
 - Singing
 - Fingerplays
 - Poetry
 - Planning for learning center activities
3. Move to learning centers for 45-minutes .
 4. Bathroom
 5. Snack
 6. Outdoor Play
 7. Relaxation Period
 8. Choose from these large group activities:

-Story -Rhythm Band -Marching -Sensori-motor Development -Science experiments -New Math Concepts -Walking Tours -Films -Filmstrips	-Demonstrations -Appreciation Time -sing-along -folk dances -circle games -records -Creative Dramatics -Art Specialties -Sensory Activities
--	---
 9. Have quiet play before dismissal:
 - Looking at books
 - Listening to records
 - Easy tabletop games
 - Free drawing or watercolor

.....

Choice Three

1. As children arrive, let them select from such quiet activities as:
 - Looking at books
 - Listening to records
 - Playing tabletop games
 - Enjoying free drawing

(Let this arrival time be about fifteen minutes)
2. After this arrival period, have large group session that includes:
 - Welcome, conversation
 - News
 - Special sharing
 - Weather report
 - Singing
 - Fingerplays
 - Poetry
 - Planning for Learning Center Activities

3. Move to learning centers for 45-minutes
4. Bathroom
5. Snack
6. Outdoor Play
7. Relaxation Period

8. Choose from these large group activities:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| -Story | -Demonstrations |
| -Rhythm Band | -Appreciation Time |
| -Marching | -sing-along |
| -Sensori-motor Development | -folk dances |
| -Science Experiments | -circle games |
| -New Math Concepts | -records |
| -Walking Tours | -Creative Dramatics |
| -Films | -Art Specialties |
| -Filmstrips | -Sensory Activities |

9. Free Play

(During this period, let children use the large equipment as mentioned in the other choices of schedules.)

In planning for the learning center activities, keep in mind that the task will be skill, need and interest oriented and will be determined according to individual growth patterns. Such careful organizing can only induce better child performance, happier teachers, pupils and parents.

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SUPPLEMENTS

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KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS IN PENNSYLVANIA

The kindergarten program in Pennsylvania shall give major emphasis to the development of a healthy child's personality, one whose physical, social and emotional well-being is such that intellectual growth is possible.

This necessitates maintaining or improving the mental and physical health of the child through a specific program of dental, psychological, social and physical services.

Each child who has needs in any of these areas shall receive treatment or care through the parent's chosen physician or dentist whenever possible or through contracted services when needed.

The kindergarten program shall provide experiences appropriate to the developmental levels of each child.

These activities, both informal and planned, shall include:

GROSS MOTOR TRAINING

.balancing	.pushing	.dancing
.walking	.pulling	.free body
.running	.twisting	movements
.skipping	.turning	.rhythmic
.hopping	.shaking	movements
.sliding	.bouncing	.calisthenics
.galloping	.lifting	.hammering
.jumping	.throwing	.sawing
.rolling	.hitting	.body localization
.bending	.catching	

FINE MOTOR TRAINING

.drawing	.cutting	.blackboard
.painting	.tearing	activities
.pasting	.clapping	.eye exercises
.printing	.crumbling	.using puzzles
.zipping	.etching	.bending wire
.buttoning	.lacing	.punching holes
.tracing	.tying	.squeezing
.sorting	.tapping	sponges
.foot and	.writing	.fingerplays
toe exercises	.folding	

LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

.conversing	.selecting
.dramatizing	.noting relationships
.role-playing	.selecting main idea
.choral speaking	.using puppets
.picture reading	.discussing

- .imagining
- .rhyming
- .sharing information
- .listening
- .labeling
- .storytelling
- .playing vocabulary games
- .sequencing events
- .naming objects
- .reporting

- .listening to poetry
- .reacting
- .deciding
- .mimicking
- .singing
- .laughing
- .creating experience stories
- .giving directions
- .understanindg symbols when able
- .explaining

PERCENTUAL ACTIVITIES

- .tone matching
- .tone differentiation
- .identifying
- .sequencing
- .classifying
- .discriminating
- .coordinating
- .laterality
- .directionality
- .space orientation
- .visual perception

- .motor perception
- .reproducing
- .comparing
- .associating
- .kinesthetic perception
- .auditory perception
- .organizing
- .equalizing
- .noting relationships
- .olefactory perception

MATHEMATICAL EXPERIENCES

- .numerals
- .ordinals
- .number
- .relationship
- .mental computation
- .sets, subsets
- .grouping
- .counting
- .estimating
- .time
- .money
- .form

- .quantity
- .place
- .distance
- .shape
- .size
- .speed
- .temperature
- .weight
- .height
- .mathematical vocabulary
- .use of mathematics
in daily life

SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

- .exploring
- .experimenting
- .planting
- .differentiating
- .hatching

- .collecting
- .questioning
- .comparing
- .reporting
- .associating

- .observing
- .discovering
- .mixing
- .problem solving

With such subjects as:

- .leaves
- .seeds
- .soil

- .frogs
- .caterpillars
- .eggs

- .water
- .heat
- .light

- .birds
- .vegetables
- .insects
- .flowers
- .chicks
- .turtles
- .snakes
- .squirrels

- .toys
- .liquids
- .sand
- .mud
- .balance
- .sanitation
- .safety
- .space

- .shadows
- .air
- .cloth
- .conservation
- .electricity
- .machines
- .any other subject
of interest

FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES

Music

- .singing
- .dancing
- .listening
- .humming
- .free movement
- .rhythm band
- .mimetics
- .musical games
- .folk dances
- .calisthenics
- .skipping
- .running
- .filmstrips with records
- .counting to music
- .clapping
- .pitch
- .tone
- .intensity
- .instruments
- .appreciation

Art

- .manipulation
- .drawing
- .painting
- .cutting
- .building
- .molding
- .mixing
- .tearing
- .pasting
- .multisensory experiences
- .appreciation
- .films or filmstrips
- .experimentation
- .designing with many raw materials

INTERGROUP EDUCATION

PERCEIVING differences and similarities
 UNDERSTANDING differences and similarities
 VALUING differences and similarities

- .human
- .economic
- .religious

- .social
- .racial

- .cultural
- .ethnic

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

- .manipulating tools
- .discovering materials
- .respecting tools and materials
- .constructing individually or cooperatively
- .discovering power activities
- .appreciating world of work
- .understanding interdependence of people and machines
- .improving gross and fine motor skills

SOCIAL STUDIES

- valuing self
- understanding role of self
- making friends
- learning about families
- appreciating workers
- improving personal work habits and exploring simple economics
- enjoying holidays and heroes
- communicating effectively
- discovering travel and transportation
- developing positive attitudes toward people and things
- learning respect for law and order

THE OPEN CLASSROOM APPROACH IN THE KINDERGARTEN

One of the current trends of education is the open classroom approach to learning. Exactly what this concept means is not yet apparent. Even the literature provides a variety of definitions and practices. To some people the concept means merely removing classroom walls and operating as always in this new, wideopen area. To others it suggests the elimination of desks, tables and large pieces of furniture so that children and teachers are free to communicate actively or passively on the floor. To still another group open space learning signifies an amalgamation of nongrading, continuums of learning, cross-grouping, with teachers working as teams, supporting adults, instigators and guides but rarely as *teachers*.

There are other interpretations varied and exciting yet no consensus has been achieved. Looking carefully, however, at all open classroom strategies one perceives a general pattern of theory (if not practice) characterized by these factors:

1. The environment is child-centered placing major emphasis on self-learning rather than teacher-imposed learning.
2. The teacher's role is crucial yet conceived differently from custom; the teacher is now a catalyst and guide, not a didactic force.
3. A sustained effort and long term commitment to this exploration of new concepts and practices is vital if the open classroom is to succeed; short-term implementation is merely frustrating.
4. The needs and growth of children is the chief concern breaking the cycle of curriculum first and children second.
5. Traditional pressures upon the child are removed permitting each pupil to progress at own rate.
6. The environment reinforces open, original modes of behavior for the learner.
7. The emotional/intellectual atmosphere encourages exploration, experimentation and innovation.

It is obvious that these factors alter the pattern of traditional practice and minimize the venerable position of teacher dominated instruction. They stimulate also the very real concern of "*HOW IS SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT ACHIEVED?*"

It is important to understand what the open environment *IS NOT*:

1. It is *NOT* a permissive environment in which the child wanders aimlessly while the teacher pretends such conduct is not annoying.

Careful limits and codes of acceptable conduct are always necessary.

2. It is NOT a place where the teacher has no right to express personal feelings and reactions. This is a humanistic environment in which both child and adult have equal communication rights.

It is NOT a *do anything-you-want* situation. On the contrary, it is genuinely concerned that the communal as well as the individual population receive equal rights and reaction time.

4. It is NOT a place where truly disturbing factors are tolerated in the name of innovative behaviors. Constant evaluation of activities must lead to continuous productive activities.
5. It is NOT an atmosphere of freedom without demand. Skillful and persistent encouragement are the order of the day with diligent emphasis upon, *Of course, it's hard but you can do it.*
6. It is NOT a place of free choice only. Some daily planning in terms of child-needs is absolutely essential.
7. It is NOT a situation that depends wholly upon self-motivation. The learning centers are so filled with planned opportunities that they invite involvement and interaction.

Translating these tenets into a positive form we find that:

1. The open classroom is an environment which provides workable, productive alternatives to current school patterns that appear to be other than child-centered.
2. The philosophy of the open classroom is based on the principles of learning and child development:
 - . A child learns best when self-motivated.
 - . A child learns best when satisfying own needs and interests.
 - . A child learns best in an atmosphere of acceptance.
 - . A child learns best when experiencing success.
 - . A child learns best when enjoying a good self-image.
 - . A child succeeds when expected to succeed.
3. The open classroom provides:
 - . Time to inquire.
 - . Freedom to pursue individual ideas.
 - . Encouragement to solve self-initiated questions and problems.
 - . Space to explore, investigate and experiment.
 - . Incidental and planned activities that help children think well of themselves, that satisfy a self-fulfilling expectancy the teacher has for the children and activities that develop within each child a sense of dignity, security, respect and achievement.
4. The open classroom is a two-way process of action and interaction between child and teacher.

In short, the effective open classroom is a way of working with children that requires:

- . A setting.
- . A support system.
- . A structure of human relationship.

It seems advisable to emphasize that anyone planning to embrace the open classroom concept must personally accept its basic philosophy and, more importantly, must be able to develop administrators, teachers and parents who are knowledgeable of and receptive to the total approach. When philosophy is initiated and accepted, the actual logistics are less difficult.

Throughout the nation the open classroom is manifested most often in new, privately owned child-care centers. In this kind of operation children are grouped in several ways:

1. 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds are together with the following teacher-pupil ratio:
 - . One teacher to 10 3-year-olds.
 - . One teacher to 15 4-year-olds.
 - . One teacher to 20 5-year-olds.
 - . Aides for each age grouping.
2. 4-, 5- and 6-year-olds are together with the following teacher-pupil ratio:
 - . One teacher to 15 4-year-olds.
 - . One teacher to 20 5-year-olds.
 - . One teacher to 24 6-year-olds.
 - . Aides for each age grouping.
3. 5-, 6- and 7-year-olds are together with the following teacher-pupil ratio:
 - . One teacher to 20 5-year-olds.
 - . One teacher to 24 6-year-olds.
 - . One teacher to 24 7-year-olds.
 - . Aides for each age grouping.

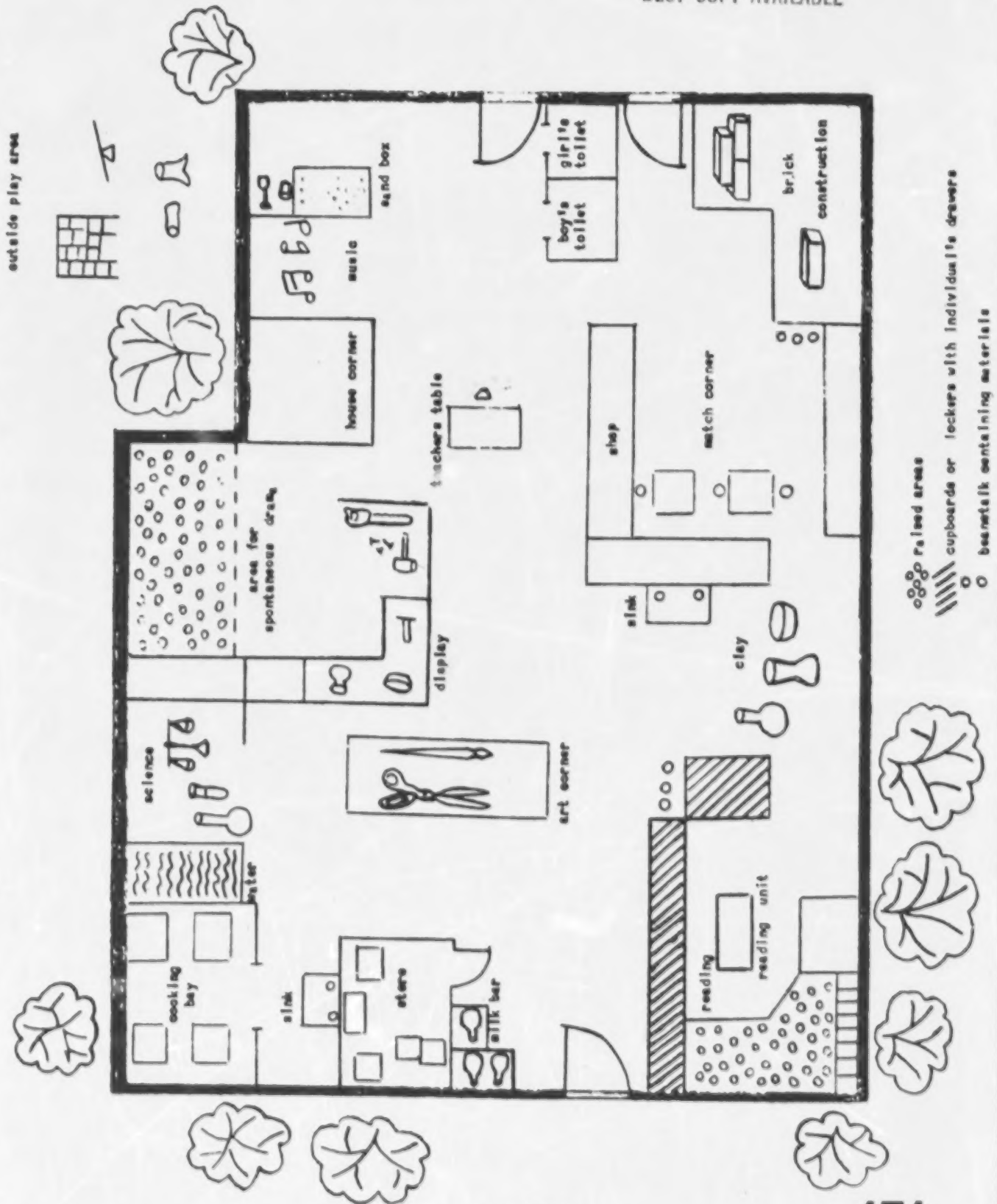
Slowly, but increasingly, public schools are organizing the open approach. It is especially feasible with group arrangement three which makes possible a nongraded and/or continuous approach to learning. It provides, also, ample opportunity for satisfying the developmental needs and abilities of all kindergarten-primary children. Suggestions have been made to school administrators and architects that consideration be given to the open school concept that includes kindergarten in the planning. Many schools still isolate the youngest children in favor of open space classrooms for the primary-intermediate groups only. Since there are as many 5-year-olds capable of operating on a 6-year-old level as there are 6-year-olds who should be working on a 5-year-old level, the combined grouping would provide for any necessary intergrouping in addition to the normal individualization process. Perhaps, in the building of new schools, this fact might be considered seriously.

Until the time, however, that open classrooms are provided for the entire kindergarten-primary group, another course of action is possible, one that is relatively easy to achieve.

The traditional classroom can be converted to a learning center approach by the simple rearrangement of furniture and supplies. In fact, the entire room need not be altered at once; one or two centers can be instituted initially.

It does seem wise to block plan the entire room into those areas that eventually will be arranged since this will permit coordination and sequencing of centers.

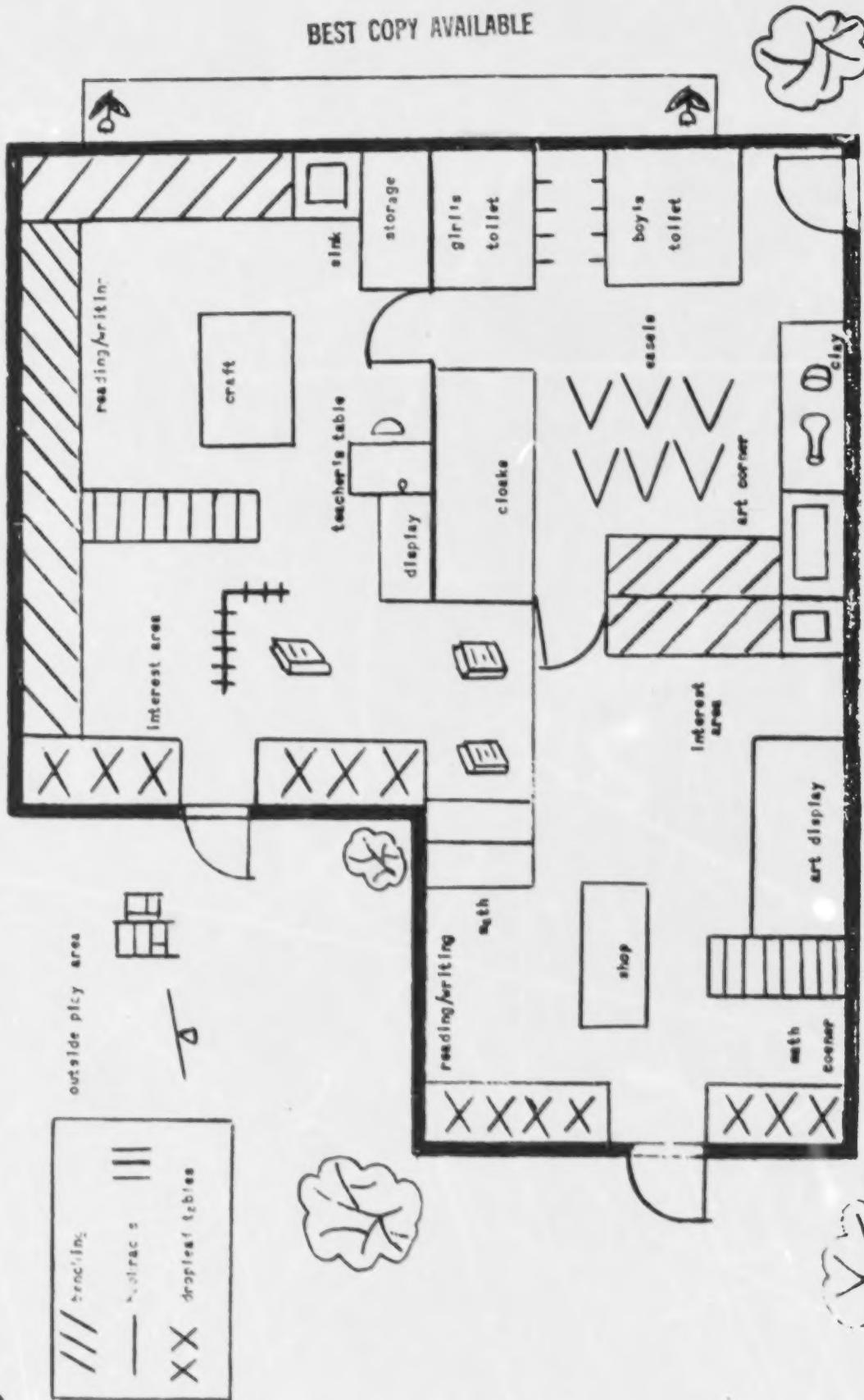
When planning the development of centers, attention should be given to mapping multiple learning routes that allow for: (1) action-oriented children, (2) instructional strategies that are involved rather than *listen and learn* and *seatwork* styles, and (3) an arrangement of furniture and space so that *open highways* to and from the tools of learning are created. (See diagrams for suggested room arrangements.) There is no prescribed order for the organizing of learning centers but the following choices seem preferable.



o o o o raised areas
 // // // // // cupboards or lockers with individual's drawers
 o beanstalk containing materials

Diagram 2

Two arrangements of classrooms showing the organization of furniture and the location of various activities. The room resembles, more than anything else, the layout of a workshop. These arrangements are flexible and capable of frequent adaptation to the prevailing needs of children.



I. THE DOMESTIC CENTER

Equipment

1. Kitchen, real if possible. Minimally, provide a hot plate, refrigerator and portable oven.
2. Snack supplies
3. Role-playing materials
4. Maintenance equipment

The domestic area should have a cozy effect and be placed in the sunniest area of the room hopefully to illustrate the warmth of home. In this center the children use equipment for actual household operations.

1. They plan and prepare daily snacks. Such snacks may be imaginative and include carrots, raisins, apples, peanut butter crackers, apple butter bread, puddings, jellios, iced cookies, gingerbread, home made ice cream, bread, butter, cakes, tarts, salads, and any other food easily prepared by children.
2. They role-play a great deal.
Because family and home are the highlights of their world, children spend much time imitating the things they see there. They try on the lives of the people they know, their work, their feelings, their words. Through this *acting out* children are able to bring some sort of reason out of the things they are learning and feeling about themselves and their world. Role-playing also helps them to develop a better understanding of others.
3. Children mirror in the domestic center what goes on at home, often depicting the emotional tension of the home.

The father who bullies or bellows, for example, will often find his way into the activity of this area. It is frequently necessary for the teacher to remain silent about what is heard in the domestic center.

4. Through this homemaking corner, children provide the teacher with a view of their self-concept.

Dependency and independency, abilities and inabilities, personal attitudes toward responsibility and reliability manifest themselves in daily activities of the domestic center. The children who say, *I can't* in this setting will probably have the same attitude to other activities of school.

II. THE TECHNOLOGICAL CENTER

Equipment:

1. Work table
2. Real tools
3. Building materials
 - a. soft woods for easy nailing
 - b. cardboard
 - c. plywood
 - d. metals
 - e. wire
 - f. glue
4. Nails, screws, tacks
5. Old tree stumps

The technological center should be placed near the domestic corner or, at least, away from the quieter areas of learning. Here children may use their creative abilities to put ideas into form:

1. They demonstrate their capacity for solving three-dimensional problems.
2. They experiment with a variety of materials.
3. They generate plans and ideas.
4. They demonstrate persistence in sticking to a task.
5. They develop coordination in use of tools as they pound, cut, measure, glue, twist, smooth, fasten, pry, form.
6. They show individual ability to organize materials for work.
7. They use materials not only for construction but as an open sesame for emotions.
 - a. Angry children pound strategically-laced tree stumps. An outlet more acceptable than biting neighbors or kicking blocks.
 - b. Nonverbal children often find a way to express themselves for creative efforts, even if offered silently to the teacher. Fill children with a sense of achievement.
8. Children in this center demonstrate understanding of safety rules and learn what to do in an emergency.

III. THE AESTHETIC CENTER

Music Equipment:

1. Piano
2. Rhythm instruments
(at least sticks for each child)
3. Real instruments
(Tom-tom, two octave xylophone, tone bars, resonator bells)
4. Audioaids
(record player, listening posts, musical filmstrips and records)
5. Materials to make original instruments

Art Equipment:

1. Work table
2. Shelves for supplies
3. Display board
4. Supplies
5. Easels
(floor, wall, tabletop)
6. Drying racks

To facilitate effective use of the aesthetic center it should be divided into two areas, one for music and one for art.

In the music nook children learn many things:

1. They interpret rhythm, mood, music through bodily movement.
2. They hear and react to different sounds.
3. They acquire descriptive words as well as a beginning vocabulary of music.
4. They improve in listening skills.
5. They develop a sense of appreciation and a sensitivity to many forms of music.
6. They share much musical fun with their friends.
7. They experiment with instruments and sound.
8. They satisfy personal feelings.
 - a. Music is both for the extrovert and introvert. It may subdue the former and arouse the latter. It may provide an emotional release for tenseness, joy, hyperactivity.
 - b. The BIG VOICES and the little voices all find a place in music.
9. Both hypervarbal and timid children literally make friends with music storybook characters. They react, sing along, interject particularly when left to their own musical choices in a quiet, unobserved place.

The art center demands a wide, low table with a practically indestructable top. On this workspace children explore a variety of materials and ideas.

1. They try paints, crayons, clay, paper, paste, collage materials.
2. They pound, tear, scribble, wash, cut, smear.
3. They build basic skills and fine motor control for future writing.
4. They channel emotions into expressions of nonverbal communications.
5. They have experiences that are as varied as their talents and emotions.
6. They demonstrate their desires through haptic art.
7. They interpret the world not as it is or was but as they see and understand it.
8. They begin to appreciate and use line, color, design.

IV. THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Equipment:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Cages | 9. Collections |
| 2. Containers | 10. Hot plate |
| 3. Magnets | 11. Iron |
| 4. Measuring instruments | 12. Aquarium, terrarium |
| 5. Batteries | 13. Garden plot |
| 6. Mirrors | 14. Water table |
| 7. Magnifying equipment | 15. Sand table |
| 8. Display tables | 16. Soil |
| | 17. Feeder stations |

This center, often called the science center, usually looks like a what-not collection with its jugs, cans, plants, scales, cages, rocks, seeds, flowers, animals and motley, child-gathered collections. The water table is frequently the focus of attraction although the soil and sand table receive extensive use, too.

This science area is important for several reasons:

1. It satisfies children's natural curiosity and exploratory nature.
2. It helps children understand real life sequences of birth, growth, seasons, cycles.
3. It permits them to predict out-comes and explain such phenomena as, *What happened to the moisture, why are some rocks smooth, how tall will different plants grow in the same period of time?*
4. Science helps children become independent and confident about their surrounding world.
5. It develops in children a sensitivity to things that look different, yet taste the same (i.e., chocolate) and things that look the same but taste different (i.g., pickles).
6. It promotes an inductive form of reasoning since children are discovering for themselves.
7. The environmental center helps children understand their growing role in the world's ecology.

V. THE MATHEMATICS CENTER

Equipment:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Abacus | 6. Magnetic board |
| 2. Games | 7. Rulers, tape measure and scissors |
| 3. Cuisenaire rods | 8. Individual flannel boards |
| 4. Counting objects | 9. Large flannel board |
| 5. Manipulative materials | 10. Overhead projector |

Abacus, bottle caps, beads, styrofoam shapes, plastic pieces, rods, popsicle sticks, buttons, beads, macaroni, pictures, fractions in three-dimensional form and infinite other inexpensive items for manipulation and counting are the mainstay of this center. Here children touch, figure, compare, contrast, weigh and conjecture with mathematical materials. Always the teacher is near to assist, clarify or check progress and individual comprehension.

Among the more fascinating objects of this center are:

1. Magnetic boards with magnetic cutouts for learning sets and numbers.
2. The overhead projector which children like to use, particularly if permitted to make their own transparencies.
3. Various measuring devices to weigh themselves, toys, food; to measure height and distance.
4. Manipulative numerals and objects to solve problems. This is a vital preamble to mental arithmetic.
5. Devices to study likenesses and differences in any mathematical sense.

As children use this center effectively, they integrate tactile experiences with visual representations and verbal concepts.

VI. THE COMMUNICATIONS (Language Arts) CENTER

Equipment:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Games | 8. Perceptual activities |
| 2. Puzzles | 9. Television |
| 3. Flannel board | 10. Telephones |
| 4. Talk-starters | 11. Pictures |
| 5. Manipulative objects | 12. Children's dictionary |
| 6. Puppets | 13. Typewriter |
| 7. Listening posts | 14. Blackboard |
| | 15. Slates |

Although the entire classroom is a language center, there is still a need for an area devoted specifically to language development. In this center children have opportunities to learn in ways that are natural to them:

1. They are encouraged to communicate.
2. They have first-hand and free use of language tools (books, typewriters, pictures, crayons, paper, pencils, talkstarters, idea starters, picture dictionaries, etc.).
3. They tell their own stories and see them written down.
4. They hear their own creations read back to them.
5. They transfer ideas into pictures.
6. They learn new words for old.
7. They receive help in specific language development.
8. Their own picturesque speech is accepted for what it is.

VII. THE LIBRARY CORNER

Equipment:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Book racks | 4. Pictures |
| 2. Display board | 5. Books, magazines |
| 3. Area rugs | 6. Comfortable seating and lighting |

The library center should be a cozy corner with a small lamp, comfortable chairs and many books with or without words (some from the library, some from home and some children can call their very own). This center is a place to relax, a place to share storybook friends, a place to look, listen and talk together softly.

1. Here the children learn the value of reading through many happy experiences with people and books.
2. They find that books and magazines give pleasure and information.
3. Their understanding of language grows.
4. They begin to use the language they hear.

*"Tiny Tim, come play with us,
The buttercups are marvelous..."*

When story time is presented in this area, there is no need for the teacher to remind anyone to sit quietly and listen for if a child is not interested, more than likely the child is in a different center of interest.

Children in other centers often listen quietly while doing their own activities, a better approach to the enjoyment of reading than insisting on rapt attention during a total-group story period. Story hour held in this center also permits the teacher to select stories suitable to the intelligence of the children. Gifted children and slow learners do not always like or need the same types of literature.

VIII. THE SOCIAL LEARNING CENTER

Equipment:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 1. Globes | 5. Current periodicals |
| 2. Maps | 6. Newspapers |
| 3. Puzzles | 7. Radio |
| 4. Pictures | 8. TV |

It is in this center that children discuss the news of the day, their homes, community, the nation and world events. They enjoy the manipulation of map puzzles and globes. They find newspaper pictures of interest to them. They look at current periodicals.

In a nation that is expected to double its population in the next 25 years, it is important for children to learn that:

1. Even though people wear different clothes, live in many kinds of homes, have varied occupations, different hobbies, languages, religious beliefs and politics, they are really very much alike.
2. They all have the same wants and needs:
 - . the need for respect and recognition
 - . the need for self-worth and dignity
 - . the need to love and be loved.
3. They must accept strangeness without hostility.
4. They all can do something worthwhile for society.

In this center planning for field trips emphasizing the children's own community rather than other areas is arranged. Through such planned *walking tours* children discover the advantages and disadvantages of their own community. They plan how to alleviate some of the disadvantages and frequently take action for improvement. (For example, one small group of kindergartners persuaded a local mill to eliminate air pollution from a smokestack that had annoyed their town for over 30 years!)

IX. PERCEPTUAL-MOTOR DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Equipment:

1. Large muscle activities
 - a. balance beam
 - b. ropes
 - c. balls
 - d. baskets
 - e. jump balls
 - f. children's trampoline
 - g. old tires
2. Small muscle activities
 - a. blackboard
 - b. creative kits
 - c. clay
 - d. string
 - e. nuts and bolts
 - f. sponge
 - g. templettes & chalk
 - h. collage materials

This center provides practice materials to develop large and small muscles through specifically designed or self-initiated activities. In many cases the center need not be a separate entity but may be incorporated into each of the other centers and the equipment used, for example, for mathematical or language learnings.

Because small muscle development is an important part of physical growth, much attention is paid to the materials that promote dexterity. When our primitive ancestors adopted the upright posture and so released the hands, there was a rapid development of mental powers, and there is still a close relationship between the facility of the hands and mental competency. Equipment for handwork of interest to children promotes good judgment, originality, persistence and coordination.

X. THE AUDIO-VISUAL CENTER

Equipment:

1. Record players
2. Flimstrip projector
3. Filmloop projector
4. Overhead projector
5. Tape recorder
6. Listening posts

This center enhances the child's sense of responsibility through encouraging the child to operate audio-visual equipment correctly and carefully.

Here children have the opportunity to organize for a group presentation of a story or informational program on a variety of subjects. Such a presentation and discussion is an excellent evaluation of a child's capability.

This center provides an opportunity for any child to enjoy a feeling of accomplishment in directing and operating a project from beginning to end and gain status in the eyes of peers.

A unique idea for this center and one that children really enjoy is to select a closet as the audio-visual center. A screen or white paper hung on the wall, a small table for the projector and a couple chairs provide an always-ready filmstrip center that most children can operate.

One of the real advantages of open space learning centers is that they eliminate waiting. In this setting, in fact, a child does very little waiting. Since arrival is usually staggered, it provides an excellent opportunity for the teacher to greet each successive pupil on a very personal, one-to-one basis. This moment of welcome, of discovering the child's emotional mood-of-the-day, this brief interaction between teacher and child is invaluable and together with any previous knowledge of the child's abilities, needs and interests forms the basis for the planning of an initial activity.

In this planning the teacher has three options:

1. Let each child select an initial activity without any teacher influence.
2. Use dichotomous questioning by selecting two areas of interest and then permitting the child to choose one or the other.
3. Personally prescribe activities.

It is recognized that in some situations where travel by bus occurs that pupils will arrive en masse. This situation can be coped with by giving children an initial play period followed by a planning session. Again the personal relationship is maintained since the teacher permits each child to move, one-by-one, from the planning session to a learning activity mutually agreeable to both.

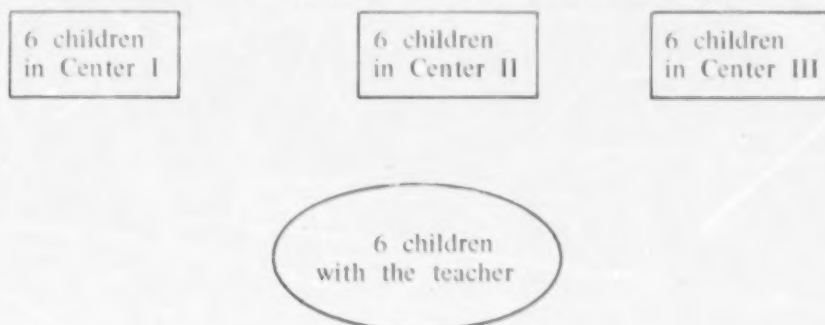
Since young children have limited abilities to stick to a task, they will need the privilege of moving from one learning center to another providing they have:

1. Completed their original activity.
2. Put their equipment in order.
3. Decided on another task to pursue.*

At no time is random or aimless movement permitted yet every child has the freedom to look at a book, listen to records or play a nondisruptive game if the child so chooses.

A simple way to assure that children are where they have agreed to be is to designate each learning center with a different color. The language arts center, to illustrate, can be identified by the color red and each child that begins work in that center should wear a red yarn circlet around the neck. Another center may be green with the workers there wearing green circlets. If a child is a rover and frequently wanders from area to area, the child can be easily identified by the circlet color. WHEN THEIR TASKS ARE FINISHED AND CHILDREN CHANGE CENTERS, THEY ALSO CHANGE THE YARN CIRCLETS.

In some classrooms the teachers and children have agreed upon a more formal method of movement yet one that children cope with easily. Each day only three learning centers are *open* to the class yet the children are divided into four small groups. They begin their activities in this fashion:

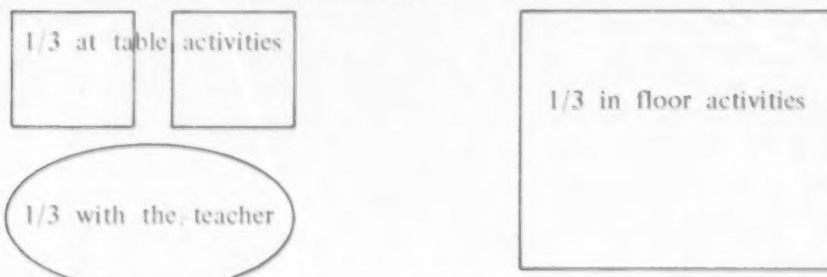


Each small group remains in its activity area for 15 or 20 minutes and then rotates to the next center. In this fashion, every child participates in each major activity. Again, if anyone completes a task before it is time to rotate, the child has a self-selected activity to occupy interest.

Providing small group periods with the teacher is absolutely essential since only through such close association can language skills or deficiencies be discovered and assisted.

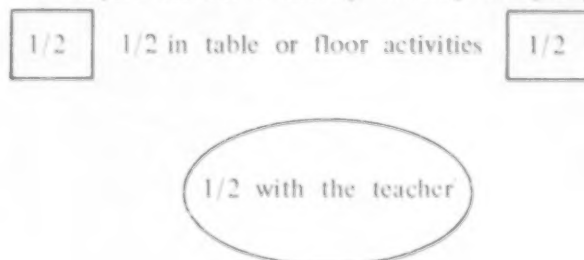
Several other organizational options are:

1. Dividing the group into thirds.



Again, the children rotate so that each has opportunity for all the day's major activities.

2. A simpler version is merely dividing the group in half.



For the teacher who feels threatened by the divided-group concept, it might be wise to begin with only one learning center and then add additional centers as both teacher and children become accustomed to the process. An easy format for establishing each center is:

1. Select six children who are dependable and relatively calm.
2. Explain to this group what you wish them to do.
3. Explain to the remaining children why certain pupils are working alone.
4. Emphasize that others will soon be selected for a second small group activity.
5. Gradually add groups until all but really disruptive children are involved. The latter probably will be happier with individual tasks.

An important aspect to remember is that children do not need divided activities every day. If the teacher desires, this format might be used three times a week with Monday for getting readjusted and for introducing the week's new concepts and Friday for total group *fun* pursuits. As in the old-fashioned one-room schools, Friday is a good day to be *different* since even the teacher is tired of the same routine by that time of the week. End-of-the-week special activities might include, films, filmstrips, sharing time, special science activity, cooking or baking, walking tours, unusual art activity such as use of water colors or pastel wax crayons, singing for another class and story hour with another kindergarten or first grade.

A second item to keep in mind is that the learning center period can be first or last in the day. There is no reason why it must always be the initial activity. Sometimes children and teachers are grateful for nonpressuring, self-selected pursuits during the final hour of the school day.

Whatever the plan for use of learning centers, at the close of an hour the children will begin to manifest signs of needing a change. If the learning center activities have been completed first, then the children will want to move to a group activity. If they have had group action for an hour, they will need the learning centers.

Anytime during the day the teacher may meet with children to provide for specific needs. In the open classroom approach such children are invited to attend small groups. There will be times when they will not wish to come to a special session because of fear of failure or disinterest. They must sometimes be permitted this right for even when they refuse to join the group, they will usually listen to what's happening. They may be physically detached but not mentally!

The real rationale for the open classroom is autonomous behavior, dependency on self, with the ability to make choices and to pursue those choices to completion. This form of inductive learning is a solid foundation for intellectual development. It is not an easy method. There are really no obvious step by step procedures and day-by-day measurable results yet it is a meritorious tool designed to make possible the solution to many current educational problems. As such, it deserves to be tried.